

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

## \$50M suit filed vs XTRA Airways

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

**F**ive businesses and 21 Chinese tourists have filed a \$50-million racketeering lawsuit in federal court against the owner and officials of XTRA Airways and several others for allegedly engaging in a fraudulent scheme by pretending to participate in a plan to bring vacationing tourists from China to Saipan via charter aircraft, but in fact deliberately sabotaging such plan by failing to take the steps necessary for it to succeed. **See \$50M on Page 4**

## CHCC: Through agreement, we provide oversight of KCHC

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., in a statement last week, said that they provide administrative oversight, among other things, for the Kagman Community Health Center.

CHCC explained that in a co-applicant agreement with KCHC, CHCC provides coordination, ad-

ministrative oversight, technical support, and "other services."

"This lessens the need for these expenses to be paid for separately by the small community health center," the statement said.

KCHC, who was assisted by CHCC to be able to secure a Federally Qualified Health Clinic status through the co-applicant agreement between the two, recently announced independence from the

corporation. According to CHCC, KCHC, who had the authority to apply for the FQHC funding independently, reused the co-applicant agreement despite its independency.

"...The new application misrepresented the KCHC relationship with CHCC. There were no discussions with the CHCC on how the KCHC would interact with the CHCC after the split, and only the **See CHCC on Page 4**

## 31 new firefighters join DFEMS

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

After completing 975 hours of intensive training, 31 firefighters graduated last Friday from the 12th Fire Cycle and joined the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Seventeen are assigned on Saipan, eight on Rota, and six on Tinian.

Excluding the new graduates, Saipan currently has 99 firefighters, while Rota has 12 and Tinian has 17, according to DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde.

Gersonde said the new graduates will be assigned on Saipan for another month to continue their on the job training until their evaluations are done.

Jeremy R. Torres, of Saipan, emerged as the class valedictorian, while Henry King Jr., of Tinian, was chosen as the class salutatorian.

James Manglona II, of Rota, was adjudged as most physically fit, while Giovanni N. Mira, of Saipan, obtained the governor's leadership award.

**See FIREFIGHTERS on Page 4**



Thirty-one members of the 12th Fire Cycle pose in a group photo during their graduation ceremony held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall last Friday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Seventeen-year-old Joseph Diaz was able to get a slot in the prestigious Stanford University in California.

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### LOCAL

The first port call in *SuperStar Virgo's* Summer Getaway cruise from March 5 to 10 was Okinawa, Japan where participants of Resorts World Manila's familiarization tour were given the opportunity to explore the beautiful city of Naha.

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### ASIA

Former South Korean President Park Geun-hye was formally convicted and sentenced to 24 years in prison on Friday.

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## Local

# Judiciary confers with CNMI Bar Association

Officers and directors of the CNMI Bar Association met Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, and other members of the CNMI Judiciary on March 29, 2018.

The Bar was informed of the status and pre-opening measures of the Guma' Hustisia. Health and safety remains a priority, and until the air-conditioning system is fully functional and mold assessment and remediation is completed at the Guma' Hustisia, court services will be conducted at

alternate locations—Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, the U.S. District Court, the Office of Adult Probation and Supervision Satellite Office, and the Department of Public Safety Training Room.

The Bar expressed concerns regarding current case settings and the accessibility of the clerk's office. The Judiciary is cognizant of their concerns, and the bar was assured that these matters are currently being addressed. At this time, cases that have been previously calendared are being heard



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, Clerk of the Supreme Court Deanna M. Ogo, Acting Clerk of the Superior Court Novelyn Wania-Tenorio, Bar director Jane Mack, Bar vice president Mark A. Scoggins, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Bench/Bar Committee chair Michael A. White, Bar secretary Charity R. Hodson, special assistant to the presiding judge Trace S. Johnson, Bar director Frannie T. Demapan, and director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho.

as scheduled at the Judiciary's alternate sites. Judges and clerks are aware that potential scheduling conflicts may arise due to cases being heard at the different alternate sites. To avoid these conflicts and any delays, members are asked to contact the clerk's office to follow up on their case set-

tings. Office phone lines have been forwarded to lines at the alternate sites.

"The clerks have been very courteous and organized in getting information out to us," said Bench-Bar Committee chair Michael White, Esq. Judiciary employees are doing their best to serve

the public despite the current state of the Guma' Hustisia. The Judiciary appreciates the public's continued patience and understanding.

A public notice was issued on Thursday, March 29, 2018, that the Guma' Hustisia will remain closed to the public until further notice. Although

the Guma' Hustisia remains closed, court operations have resumed with services provided at alternate locations.

Court schedule and notices are posted on the Judiciary website ([www.justice.gov.mp](http://www.justice.gov.mp)), Facebook (CNMI Judiciary), and Instagram (@cnmijudiciary). (PR)



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### FOR ALLEGED MISUSE OF GOVT VEHICLE

## OAG files information against ex-Labor secretary

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General filed on Wednesday an information that contains three traffic charges against former Department of Labor secretary Edith Eleanor DeLeon Guerrero.

The information, which was filed by assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr., charged the 53-year-old DeLeon Guerrero with three counts of restriction upon use

of government vehicles.

Glass stated in the information that on Dec. 8, 2013 to Oct. 11, 2016, DeLeon Guerrero used a government motor vehicle that had tinting materials on its windows, that was not clearly marked as such on both front doors, and did not bear government license plates.

Originally, OAG filed in court only a traffic citation that contains the same charges against the former Labor secretary.

On Oct. 1, 2016, the then-

Labor secretary DeLeon Guerrero was cited for violation of restriction upon use of government vehicles such as driving a government vehicle that does not bear a government license plate, driving an unmarked government vehicle, and operating a government vehicle with tinting on its windows.

DeLeon Guerrero pleaded not guilty. She said it's a rent a car and obviously not a government property.

Each of three charges is

punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and/or three days of imprisonment, according to the law. According to court documents, Police Officer Jesus Santos issued the traffic citation against DeLeon Guerrero on Oct. 16, 2016 at 3:39pm in the parking lot of the Happiness Chinese Restaurant in western Garapan.

DeLeon Guerrero was the driver of a red five-door Toyota car with license plate ACU-788. The car is registered to Marfega Trading Co. Inc.

**Tourism Topics**

A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

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## April is Autism Awareness Month

The entire month of April is designated to supporting all children and adults that have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Over a million adults and about 1 out of 68 children across the United States are diagnosed with ASD or a form

of ASD. The month of April has been dedicated to spreading awareness about what ASD really is and how individuals diagnosed with ASD can still contribute to the community.

Last Friday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed a proclamation officially designating

the entire month of April to spreading autism awareness.

According to Torres, he is inviting the entire community to recognize autism awareness month and to show consideration for all those who deal with the disorder on a day-to-day basis.

"I would like to invite our entire community to acknowl-

edge all those diagnosed with autism, show them care and understanding for their situation, and be a help through spreading awareness," he said.

Throughout the month of April, the community can expect activities dedicated to spreading ASD awareness and to raise funds for the Autism Society of the CNMI.

On Saturday, April 14, the community is invited to join the Autism Society of the CNMI's Quiz Night that will be held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan from 6pm to 10pm.

Quiz Night is an event that aims to increase autism awareness in the CNMI and to raise funds for the Autism Society of the CNMI.

Tickets to Quiz Night are now available for \$30 a piece. Interested individuals can contact Tom Thornburgh at 783-6378 for tickets.

The society will also host a Hotdog Walk and Family Fun Day on April 21 at the Last Command Post from 3pm to 5pm. The event is open to the public. *(Kimberly A. Bautista)*

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## \$50M

From Page 1

The five complaining businesses are Dream Pacific Aviation Services Hong Kong Ltd.; Evelen U.S.A. Corp., owner of Impression Tour; Bright Investment LLC, owner of Saipan Restaurant; Rionda Company Ltd., owner of New Shin Restaurant; and BW International Inc., owner of BW Car Rental.

The 21 Chinese tourists are Cui Xing, Kong Fanjing, Li Huakun, Li Xiuxia, Liang Wei, Luo Feng, Meng Jie, Qian Dongyuan, Qian Yutian, Shi Songzhen, Song Guangsen, Wang Fang, Wang Mingqiang, Wang Qianduo, Wang Yaming, Wang Yelan, Yang Shiping, Zhang Guifeng, Zhang Lin, Zhang Shuangli, and Zhao Jingjian.

Eleven of the 21 are “stranded” tourists. They traveled from China to Saipan via XTRA Airways prior to Nov. 4, 2017, and were scheduled to return to China via XTRA Airways on or after that date, but instead were allegedly abandoned by XTRA on Saipan.

They rest are intending tourists who allegedly had booked and/or paid for flights on XTRA Airways charter flights from China to Saipan and back to China. Their charter flights, which were scheduled for the time period between Nov. 4, 2017, and Dec. 10, 2017, never flew due to XTRA’s alleged abandonment of the Saipan routes.

Named as defendants are Frank J. Visconti, Nicolas Finazzo, and Andrew Lotter, who are all citizens and residents of Florida. They all allegedly personally authorized and actively participated in the fraudulent and wrongful conduct against plaintiffs.

Visconti was president and chief executive officer of XTRA Airways.

Finazzo was a director of XTRA Airways and AerSale Inc. He was also chief executive officer of AerSale Inc. and a member of AerLine Holdings LLC.

Lotter was chief operating officer and director of operations for XTRA Airways.

Also sued are TEM Enterprises Inc., AerSale Inc.; and AerLine, Holdings LLC. The companies are all based in Coral Gables, Florida.

TEM Enterprises owns XTRA Airways.

AerSale Inc. has operated and controlled XTRA Airways. It was the registered owner of the B-737-800 aircraft that XTRA Airways used for the Saipan/China flights.

AerLine Holdings LLC is the owner and parent corporation owner of XTRA Airways.

Also sued is Carlton Conkling, a citizen and resident of the State of Texas. He was employed as a pilot by XTRA Airways and served as captain of several XTRA Airways flights between Saipan and China.

Various other corporations and individuals are unnamed co-defendants being alleged co-conspirators in the offenses.

Attorney Robert J. O’Connor and the Torres Brothers law firm are counsel for the plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs are suing the defendants for allegedly violating the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, fraud, violating the CNMI Consumer Protection/Unfair Competition Act, and negligence.

In addition, plaintiff Dream Pacific are suing the defendants for breach of contract/interference with contract, unjust enrichment, and conversion.

The plaintiffs asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold the defendants liable to pay them \$50 million in punitive damages, plus other damages, attorney’s fees, and court costs.

According to O’Connor in the complaint, in 2016 and 2017, Dream Pacific engaged in negotiations with XTRA Airways for XTRA to provide charter air services between Saipan and China for the purpose of transporting Chinese tourists visiting Saipan.

Pursuant to these negotiations, Dream Pacific and XTRA entered into an Aircraft Charter Agreement on March 18, 2017.

Under the deal, XTRA agreed to make one aircraft, with crew, available to Dream Pacific for charter flights according to schedule: three weekly flights between Saipan and Nanjing; three weekly flights between Saipan and Tianjin; and one weekly flight between Saipan and Changsha.

Dream Pacific agreed to pay for the use of the plane for the minimum number of hours, at an agreed rate, and regardless of the number of passengers on the flight.

The agreement required XTRA, among other things, to be fully authorized and licensed to operate the aircraft for all the purposed required by the charter agreement.

Pursuant to the agreement, O’Connor said, Dream Pacific deposited \$1 million into an escrow account to accrue aircraft availability.

The money, O’Connor said, was wired from China to XTRA Airways’ bank account at the Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, in Washington, Delaware, on March 31, 2017.

After entering into the agreement, but before charter flights commenced, defendants Visconti, Finazzo and Lotter allegedly determined that XTRA’s contractual relationship with Dream Pacific was dissatisfactory and disadvantageous to XTRA.

Visconti, Finazzo, and Lotter allegedly dissolved and conspired together to terminate the relationship by fraudulent means.

Visconti, Finazzo, and Lotter, allegedly directly or through agents, encouraged and induced Dream Pacific to agree to an amendment to the Aircraft Charter Agreement, whereby the charter project would ostensibly be expanded to include a second plane and additional flights and destinations.

On Aug. 15, 2017, Dream Pacific and XTRA executed

an addendum 1 which amended the original Aircraft Charter Agreement by providing for two aircraft rather than one; and by changing the schedule of charter flights to include three weekly flights between Saipan and each of four cities in China: Nanjing, Tianjin, Wuhan, and Shenzhen.

Under addendum 1, one plane would begin flying the Nanjing and Tianjin routes in late September 2017, while the second plane would begin flying the Shenzhen and Wuhan routes in late October 2017.

The minimum monthly hours were set at 230 hours per plane.

O’Connor said the five business plaintiffs agreed with each other to arrange and provide for the entertainment, food and lodging of an anticipated average of 2,000 Chinese tourists per month to be transported to Saipan via XTRA Airways charter flights.

Dream Pacific sold air tickets and travel packages to and from Saipan to the tourist plaintiffs.

Charter flights on XTRA Airways between Saipan and China plan began in September 2017, and several round-trip flights took place in September and October 2017 between Saipan and Nanjing, and between Saipan and Tianjin.

Rather than the agreed two aircraft, however, XTRA allegedly supplied only one plane to provide service for charter flights; a two-engine B373-800 passenger aircraft, with 186 passenger seats.

O’Connor said Visconti, Finazzo, and Lotter, directly or through agents, continued to falsely represent to Dream Pacific that a second plane would be provided, even after, the second aircraft that they had originally claimed was intended for the Saipan routes had been leased by XTRA to another company.

Furthermore, O’Connor said, even the single plane XTRA provided was not fit for its intended purpose.

O’Connor said the route

from the U.S. followed by the plane on its way to Saipan, as well as the planned routes between Saipan and China, indicates substantial distances over the Pacific Ocean more than one hour’s flying time from any adequate airport, but the plane provided by defendants was not extended-range twin-engine operation regulations, or ETOPS, certified.

Visconti, Finazzo and Lotter, directly or through agents, allegedly represented to Dream Pacific that the planned routes between Saipan and China did not require its aircraft to be ETOPS certified because there was an adequate airport at Iwo Jima.

O’Connor said in fact plaintiffs believe that the Iwo Jima airport, was not an adequate airport for ETOPS purposes,

due to its inadequate runway surface and length, lack of weather forecasting service, frequent closures, and other reasons.

In addition, the lawyer said, XTRA operated its Saipan/China flights in violation of other Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety regulations, including but not limited to regulations concerning duty times and crew rest requirements.

XTRA allegedly never flew the extra routes contemplated by addendum 1, such as the routes to and from Shenzhen and Wuhan.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## CHCC

From Page 1

original arrangement was listed in the application, which does not represent the new arrangements that will need to be made,” CHCC said in a statement, adding that they are already discussing the matters with the Department of Health and Human Services Region IX on the matter. Prior to the co-applicant agreement, KCHC could not apply for the FQHC.

Health Resources and Services Administration, or HRSA, awarded KCHC with a three-year grant extension, giving the health center over \$3 million for operation funds over the period of the grant extension.

“Operating as an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organization, it will be incumbent upon and wholly the responsibility of the Kagman Board of Directors to ensure that [KCHC] performs well and manages its financial resources with transparency and fiduciary responsibility to the community as there will be no further oversight by external entities such as CHCC or the Office of the Public Auditor to ensure conflicts of interest are avoided,” CHCC added.

CHCC later added that they were in support of KCHC’s decision to go independent.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said in an interview that he met with the KCHC board. He added that he supports KCHC’s decision to go independent.

“...We want them to succeed... That is the reason why we are supporting them, to be successful,” Torres said, adding that KCHC first securing the FQHC was a “great step to being independent.”

“[KCHC] is doing a phenomenal job,” said Torres.

When asked if the central

government would appropriate funds to the new health clinic, Torres said KCHC has yet to ask.

### CHCC: Transitional plan should have been made

CHCC, in their statement on the termination of KCHC executive director Vincent Castro, cited the co-applicant agreement as their authority to terminate the KCHC executive director.

“...All employees of KCHC, including the executive director, are employees of CHCC and subjected to CHCC’s personnel policies and procedures, including termination of one’s contract with CHCC,” said CHCC in a statement, adding that the “KCHC [board] has the authority to remove an executive director from KCHC but...not terminate one’s contract with CHCC.”

“CHCC employee termination lies with the corporation itself. The Board of Directors of the CHCC has been involved in the discussions on the actions to terminate the employment of Vince Castro as well as the acting governor,” said the statement.

As for the KCHC executive director, CHCC said that as an employee of CHCC, the KCHC executive director has the responsibility of communicating actions and decisions regarding the health center to the CHCC chief executive officer, who then reports to the CHCC board.

“Although CHCC supports KCHC’s desire to be independent, CHCC should have been a part of the decision making and a transitional plan should have been established far in advance to reconcile assets shared by CHCC to KCHC and make clear arrangements for the relationship with CHCC, including services provided by the hospital moving forward,” said the statement from CHCC.

## FIREFIGHTERS

From Page 1

Valedictorian Torres, 24, gave credit in getting the highest academic honors from the help of his family, his wife’s family, and other cadets.

Torres said the six-month training was the longest since the 10th Fire Cycle.

“It’s very fast pace. There’s very little room for error because we are dealing with life and people’s lives,” Torres said. “We worked so hard.”

Torres, who was born in Guam, graduated high school at the John F. Kennedy in

Guam. His parents, Jack Torres and Linneth Rivera, are from Saipan.

Torres and his wife, Marie, have one child.

DFEMS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita, in his closing remarks, encouraged the new graduates that since they have 38 college credits already, they should visit the Northern Marianas College and get a degree.

Norita said the new graduates should get the education because the fire service demands its fire officers and chiefs to be educated and with advanced degrees.

“The path has been paved

so make use of it. Don’t lose your fire,” the commissioner said.

Norita thanked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, and the Legislature for not only preaching the support for the first responders but also show it by ensuring that the funding is there.

Norita said the past three years first responder agencies, including DFEMS, have seen an overdue recognition in merit increase, promotions and a new pay scale across the CNMI.

“We have also seen the re-direction of grant funds to purchase critical equipment for

first responders,” said Norita, hinting that Torres and the Legislature are finally looking at addressing hazardous pay for first responders.

The commissioner also underscored the importance of parents, spouse, children, and close friends that they provide to the cadets during the academy.

Norita said he is proud of the new graduates and the hardship they went through to get here.

“The curious cadets are gone and only the true fire eaters have survived. I know you are itchy to go out there and kill some dragons,” he said.

# Hunter: No inquiry made on NAP, ENAP claims

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter last week said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) failed to reach out to his office regarding numbers of the Enhanced Nutritional Assistance Program and the Nutritional Assistance Program.

Hunter, said in a retort to Sablan's claim that his office reached out to DCCA to request for information was ignored, that NAP staff received only a three-line email requesting to include Sablan's office in the forwarding of an upcoming quarterly ENAP report last October.

"That was it. I never received a letter from the congressman's office spelling out any timeline on the new Agriculture Bill and letting us know what they would need to aid them in the effort to see us transition into [the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program] in that bill," Hunter told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hunter added that over the last six months, he has not received any single "substantial piece of communication" from the delegate's office.

Sablan in a previous press conference said that according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, carried over balances from fiscal year 2017 ENAP and NAP could hinder the CNMI from receiving more funding out of the Farm Bill grant. According to Sablan, \$18.4 million leftover ENAP funding was carried over from fiscal year 2017 while \$4.1 million of the \$12.1 million NAP block grant was carried over. The ENAP funding for fiscal year 2018 started at \$27 million. Sablan added that he believes DCCA is biding NAP and ENAP funding to stretch out the funds.

In response to the claims of DCCA penny-pinching funding for it to last longer, Hunter reiterated that the ENAP is carried out as a plan approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services.

"We have carried out that plan meticulously. We have been commended by the FNS for our exemplary implementation of the plan," Hunter said, adding that the delegate even lauded their handling of the program.

The ENAP, which just began implementation last June, is specifically de-

signed not to expend all of the funds in a short period, unlike a previous proposal from the delegate's office attempting to secure SNAP pilot funding, said Hunter.

"Nothing in the responses to the congressman's questions to the USDA, the FNS' parent department, notes that there is any threat to the NAP or ENAP, or that there is any misadministration of these funds, despite the congressman's effort to paint that picture. That misinterpretation is the creation of the congressman," the DCCA secretary said.

"...As the congressman knows (or should know), the ENAP is a living plan. That plan is based on projections produced by the FNS, not the CNMI NAP. We are bound by their projections and we are bound by their approvals for specific implementation," explained Hunter. He added that DCCA recently met with the FSN to discuss their projections, which they acknowledged "were off" due to not taking into account the level of growth experienced by the economy.

"Had the congressman extended us the courtesy of real communication with our offices, we would have let him know that we had revised the ENAP income eligibility levels and benefits post-FNS meeting, raising both. We would have let him know that these changes would be made as soon as approval was received. The Department of Agriculture response to the congressman mentions this, but I'm not clear that he understands what it says, 'CNMI is currently considering, with FNS technical assistance, modifications to the ENAP intended to expand participation. Primary among the changes are further increases to income eligibility and benefit levels as well as additional ENAP promotion.' Now again, if he'd had enough courtesy to contact us, we could have told him that we are more than "considering", as we have submitted amendments to the plan that are being considered by the FNS," said Hunter.

## It's all political

Hunter in his retort to the delegate's claims added that though unconfirmed, Sablan's actions is personal and "petty politics."

"[Sablan's] supposed concern and hit-piece came only a few days after I posted a pointed critical statement and accompanying illustra-

tion as address to a comment he made on social media," Hunter said. "His concern wasn't the ENAP, or those that really depend on food assistance—or he wouldn't be putting a well-run program in jeopardy with the clearly skewed public statements he made about the program. His concern was retaliation for the criticism I posted."

Hunter said the DOA did not respond to his "pointed questions."

"The DOA didn't bite and

provide him with the information he was hoping to get, even though he was already set in his course to smear the ENAP handling in some attempt at retaliation. So when he says this isn't personal or petty politics... That is all it is."

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# ‘Co-op education provides opportunities for career-bound students’

By **BEA CABRERA**  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The Public School System recognizes that high school students have different paths they want to pursue. One is a college path that prepares the students for college to earn a degree; and second is a career path that prepares students for a job after high school, according to acting Education commissioner Yvonne “Boni” Pangelinan.

“This is really where the nation is going and this is where we also see the importance of

providing support to all children not just our students... and so that really launched the beginning of curriculum reconstruction to take a look at the career and technical education courses that PSS provides the students,” she said during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting last Wednesday at Kanoa Resort.

“There are several Career Technical Education courses right now in all of our middle schools and our high schools—from business courses to Science Technol-

ogy Engineering and Mathematics, video production, visual media entrepreneurship, the arts and hospitality tourism but the primary vehicle for our students for employment and job experience were the rubber meets the road is Cooperative Education,” she added

Cooperative Education was established in 2014 and has been an annual event for PSS high school students.

“PSS and provides all the job training for students who get hired right away and moved into their careers after high school. For some, it is an opportunity to see what they would want to or pursue for their lives and careers,” Pangelinan said.

“We are very proud of these students and of this program,” she added

According to co-op program coordinator Brandon S. Nicolas, with cooperative education, there are so much opportunities for growth.

“We are basically helping our students understand and explore the different career opportunities available to them and we want them to have that pre-determined exposure so they can determine for themselves if I want to go to secondary studies do I want to get into business or marine biology and so forth and it’s been really

helpful so far,” he said.

“It’s an elective class that begins in the classroom because co-op education is a class that you can come and enroll in any of our school campuses and learn different things like job placement techniques, career exploration, and prepare for the workforce. It is considered a one-two punch because once you’re done with co-op education, you jump into on the job co-op education training,” he added.

Nicolas said that on the job co-op training is the true highlight of the program.

“This is where our students put into action everything that they learned... The duration is only a semester long—from August to December... Basically students have to complete 60 hours of on-the-job training every month and 180 hours per semester,” he said.

“I always ask the students this and it’s always the main reason why they get into co-op, they get paid about \$900 at the end of the semester so the students pretty much earn and learn... this helps them identify the different benefits that the co-op offers,” he added

Nicolas said that the co-op program starts with a job fair where all the students and company partners come together.

“This is really a fun event and I’m sure all of our partners agree that this is where you meet some interesting characters. This job fair also gives the students a chance at landing interviews with private companies that will hopefully lead to a job offer,” he said

“There is a lot of documentation involved as a lot of our students do off-campus training so there is a lot of liability (issues), but these are all documents that we should go over with participating companies and teachers so we all understand each of our roles and responsibilities,” he added

About every semester, Nicolas said that they conduct a company appreciation event.

“We get together and appreciate all of the accomplishments achieved. It is a great way to cap off a long semester of hard work and partnership and I hope to continue this program with the partners,” he said.

“Last year we had 81 different companies and agencies who participated in the program—55 private companies and 26 in the public sector... we want to thank all our partners for all the good work that you do. A lot of you here today are our community partners and our program ceased to exist without your support and the many opportunities that you open up for our students,” he added.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**Proposed Amendment to the Official  
Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone)  
for**

**Marianas General Clinic dba Marianas Specialty  
Referral Hospital/Pacific Fertility Institute**

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Marianas General Clinic dba Marianas Specialty Referral Hospital/Pacific Fertility Institute is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 216-2-1, EA 216-3, EA 833-12, EA 833-13, EA 833-14-1, EA 833-14-R-1, & EA 833-20 in As Perdido (Mango Resort properties), from “Village Commercial” to “Mixed Commercial” zoning district.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: April 19, 2018**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Multipurpose Center, Susupe**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, April 18, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to [Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**for**

**Share View Travel Corporation**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Share View Travel Corporation is proposing to occupy 4 existing 2-storey structures and 1 maintenance building with a total of 18 units to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as “Bed & Breakfast” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1625 NEW-9-R2 in Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

**Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, April 18, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to [Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

**(AMENDED)**

## Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

**Thursday, April 19, 2018**

**5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe**  
**Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp)**

- A. Preliminary Matters**
  - 1. Call to Order
  - 2. Roll Call
  - 3. Adoption of Agenda
  - 4. Adoption of 02/21/2018 meeting minutes
  - 5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)
- B. Public Hearings:**
  - 1. **Rezone Application #2018-0706:** Marianas General Clinic dba Marianas Specialty Referral Hospital/Pacific Fertility Institute is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 216-2-1, EA 216-3, EA 833-12, EA 833-13, EA 833-14-1, EA 833-14-R-1, & EA 833-20 in As Perdido (Mango Resort properties), from “Village Commercial” to “Mixed Commercial” zoning district to operate a full service inpatient hospital.
  - 2. **Conditional Use Application #2018-0748:** Share View Travel Corporation is proposing to occupy 4 existing 2-storey structures and 1 maintenance building with a total of 18 units to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as “Bed & Breakfast” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1625 NEW-9-R2 in Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
- C. Communication**
- D. Old Business: Board decisions on the following applications heard during the Public Hearing conducted on February 21, 2018:**
  - 1. Conditional Use Application #2017-3788: Jiang Zhen Group dba Shanghai Guest House. (Motel)
  - 2. Conditional Use Application #2017-4598: Kuan Y. Leung dba KL Auto Shop. (Gas Station, Light Repair)
  - 3. Conditional Use Application #2017-4958: Win Win Construction Co., (Saipan), Inc.. (Institutional Residential)
- E. New Business**
  - 1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement/Public Hearing Procedures)
  - 2. All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) – “Amusement, Outdoor”
- F. Executive (Closed) Session**
- G. Miscellaneous**
  - a. Other Matters
  - b. Announcements
  - c. Next Meeting
- H. Adjourn**

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

## USCIS reaches FY 2019 H-1B cap

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has reached the congressionally-mandated 65,000 H-1B visa cap for fiscal year 2019. USCIS has also received a sufficient number of H-1B petitions to meet the 20,000 visa U.S. advanced degree exemption, known as the master’s cap. The agency will reject and return filing fees for all unselected cap-subject petitions that are not prohibited multiple filings. USCIS will continue to accept and process petitions that are otherwise ex-

empt from the cap. Petitions filed for current H-1B workers who have been counted previously against the cap, and who still retain their cap number, will also not be counted toward the FY 2019 H-1B cap. USCIS will continue to accept and process petitions filed to: Extend the amount of time a current H-1B worker may remain in the United States; Change the terms of employment for current H-1B workers; Allow current H-1B workers to change employers; and Allow current H-1B workers to work concurrently in a second H-1B position.

U.S. businesses use the H-1B program to employ foreign workers in occupations that require specialized knowledge. **(PR)**

## Bordallo statement on 171 additional H-2B visa approvals

**HAGÁTÑA, Guam**—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo recently issued the following statement on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service’s approval of 171 additional H-2B visas for Guam. PHC Corp. received the approval from Congressional authority championed by Congresswoman Bordallo in P.L. 115-91, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

“Our local companies continue to benefit from Congressional relief I pursued in last year’s defense bill. I am hopeful that we will continue to see these approvals and build our workforce to meet our labor demands. This has been a whole of community effort, and I appreciate the strong, “One Guam” partnerships we have built with our local stakeholders. I look forward to building on this progress as we pursue additional legislative relief for our entire community.” **(PR)**

# DPAC commences implementation review of Initial Gaming Facility

The Development Plan Advisory Committee under the Office of the Governor has commenced development monitoring of the completion of the Initial Gaming Facility in Garapan, Saipan, pursuant to the mandates of the Casino License Agreement.

The DPAC was created by the CLA to allow the CNMI to monitor the implementation status of the Initial Gaming Facility and Phase I of the proposed Saipan Integrated Resorts by the licensee, Imperial Pacific International, LLC.

Within the DPAC, the

CNMI is represented by Pacific Century Inc., a firm selected through a competitive Request for Proposal issued by the CNMI in 2015. The DPAC is funded by the licensee as required by the CLA.

Pacific Century Inc., is a local consulting firm, specializing in development and project management. The firm has represented various multi-national firms such as ABB Energy

Ventures, Hydro —a division of Mitsui & Co., Huawei Technologies and other international firms in promoting sustainable devel-

opment. Imperial Pacific is represented by the local architectural firm N15, which is involved in several development projects on Saipan and whose credentials include the design of the new US Courthouse in Gualo Rai.

The goal of DPAC is to make a determination of the construction status and timeline for safe construction and completion of the facilities, and the operational start up for both the Initial Gaming Facility the proposed Saipan Integrated Resorts.

Pacific Century Inc., has announced the appointment

of Don Smith to undertake the construction schedule reviews. Smith has extensive background in project management, and has worked in large-scale construction projects in the Middle East, North Asia and the Americas. He was the program manager for the CNMI Water Task Force from 2002 to 2006 with professional experience in the U.S. Atomic Commission and the Department of Defense.

In addition, Pacific Century Inc., has also hired Euro Asia Consultants, a

leading casino and hospital-ity consulting firm to assist in enhancing the DPAC's capacity in the development management of the proposed Saipan Integrated Resorts. Euro Asia Consultants is headed by Stephen Karoul, an industry professional with over 40 years in the marketing of casinos, hotels, and integrated resorts in United States and in Asia. Also assisting Karoul, is Dean Macomber, another respected gaming industry professional with extensive casino operational expertise

in the Asia-Pacific region and Las Vegas.

DPAC's mission is to guide the timely implementation and successful development of the Saipan Casino Industry. An analysis of the implementation schedules and reports to the Office of the Governor are expected to be completed in May 2018. These reports would provide the basis to determine if adjustments in implementation are justifiable, and more importantly, be of benefit to the people of the Commonwealth. (PR)

## AG's Cup speech competition set for May 4

The Office of the Attorney General will hold its 34th Annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition on May 4, 2018 at 9am at the Fiesta Resort and Spa, Hibiscus Hall.

Eight high schools will be participating in this year's competition, they include: Dr. Rita Inos High School, Eucon International School, Grace Christian Academy, Marianas Baptist Academy, Marianas High School, Mount Carmel High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Kagman High School.

"The speech competition gives CNMI high school students the opportunity to conduct research on the topic provided for by the Attorney General's office. Students are required to prepare and present their speech that showcases their voice and passion for his or her position on the topic," says Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

This year's topic focuses on the Insular Cases Doctrine, according to which Congress can choose which portions of the United States Constitution apply to "unincorporated territories," including the CNMI. The issue presented is broken down into three parts: (1) To what extent does the Insular Cases Doctrine give the citizens of unincorporated territories (the CNMI) flexibility to take into account their unique culture and history? (2) To what extent does the Insular Cases Doctrine create different classes of U.S. citizens? and (3) Is the Insular Cases Doctrine relevant and should it continue applying to the CNMI? Why?

Manibusan states, "The topic provides the students the opportunity to review the Covenant to Establish the Commonwealth as well as the U.S. and Commonwealth constitutions. The students will spend hours of research leading up to the event by preparing and rehearsing for

the competition. Their hard work and enthusiasm is evident when they deliver their speeches on the day of the competition."

The Office of the Attorney General welcomes the public to attend the



Manibusan

event and support the students of the CNMI. For more information on the Speech Competition, contact Keola Fitial at the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division at 237-7600. (PR)

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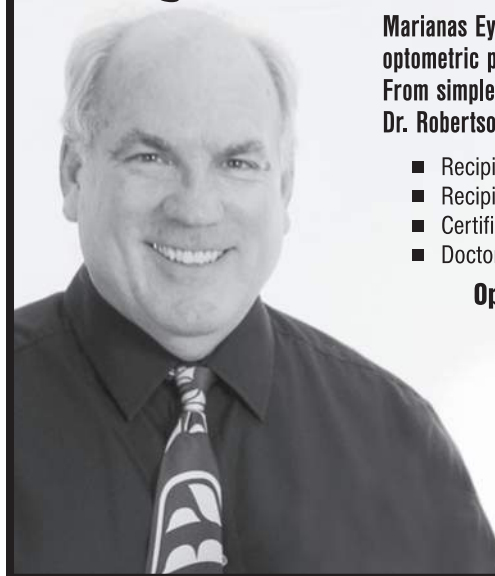
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## Spring Super Spectacular

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018**  
DOOR OPENS 2PM - PACKAGE GAMES STARTS 3:00PM

**\$1,000.00 CASH PACKAGE PAYOUT GUARANTEED**  
10 GAMES = 1PK: \$50.00 / BUY 2 GET 1 FREE (Single Player)

**\$10,000.00 COVERALL**  
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DOOR OPEN 7PM, GAMES STARTS 7:30PM AND  
EVERY SUNDAY, DOOR OPEN 2PM, GAMES STARTS 2:30PM

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# Talented Chamorro teenager goes to Stanford

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen-year-old Joseph Diaz, currently a senior at Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills, California, was able to get a slot in the prestigious Stanford University in California where the acceptance rate for school year 2019 was 4.3 percent or only 2,040 students from an applicant pool of almost 50,000 students. He will start college in the Fall of 2019.

His talent in music was a contributing factor in his journey into the prestigious school. He has been playing the trombone since he was 9 years old.

Diaz was born and raised in California to parents Anthony and Jennibeth Diaz. Anthony is Chamorro and is the son of Bernice Pangelinan Diaz and the late Ramon DLG Diaz. Joseph has two siblings, Benjamin Ramon Diaz and Mia Claire Diaz.

According to Anthony, Joseph's musical inkling is attributed to his father side of the family.

"...I was a singer throughout college and his great-great-grandfather, Jose Sablan Pangelinan, played just about any instrument and composed many Chamorro songs including the anthem, still sung today," he said.

"Joseph plays every day for at least a couple of hours. He is definitely blessed as a musician and trombone player... he loves playing the trombone," he added.

Getting into Stanford University where the competition is tough when it comes to getting a slot did not come easy for Joseph. However, he adapted and kept moving.

"Besides filling out the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joseph Diaz started playing the trombone when he was 9 and his tremendous talent earned him a slot to study at Stanford University in California.

common application, Stanford required an extra eight short answer and three essay questions... there was also the option to provide an arts portfolio and Joseph chose to do this since music is such a large part of his life," Anthony said.

"...Joseph decided to request a live audition and fortunately, he was chosen to have a live audition in front of the Stanford Symphony Orchestra conductor. By having a live audition, Joseph was able to connect with the conductor, discuss his musical goals, and

see the music facilities at Stanford," Anthony added.

According to his father, Joseph started playing in fourth grade, but really committed to it in sixth grade.

"Seventh grade is the first time you can apply for California All-State Honor Bands and when he made the highest All-State middle school band as a seventh grader, he was hooked and made it a goal to make the California All-State Honor Bands all six years. Joseph was one of only three musicians this year who made

All-State all six years from 7th-12th grade," he said.

Prior to playing trombone, Joseph took piano lessons for a couple of years. In 4th grade, students can choose an instrument and the trombone was just an instrument not many people played and looked fun to play. Once he started taking lessons, his private trombone teacher, MJ Wamhoff inspired him to achieve his best, according to Anthony.

The elder Diaz said Joseph's talent as a trombone player has pushed him to reach goals that he set and more.

"There are so many opportunities and Joseph set his goal to make All-State and National Honor Bands in middle school. To be able to play with some of the honor groups, under some of the best conductors in the world, is a humbling and thrilling experience," he said.

"He's been able to study

with trombone greats like Joseph Alessi of New York Philharmonic, Tim Higgins of San Francisco Symphony, Kyle Covington of San Diego Symphony and Peter Ellefson a professor of music at Indiana University to name a few. In all, playing in all these groups allows Joseph to experience the music and play with amazing and talented young musicians," he added.

Anthony said, while growing up, his son Joseph has earned numerous first chairs in many local, regional, state, and national honor bands. First chair is a position of distinction that usually go to a highly competent player.

"He earned first chair in the highest California All-State Honor Band called Wind Symphony, his 10th and 11th grade years as first chair in the All-State Symphony and he also earned first chair in the Music For All National Honor

Band in his 11th grade year. He also marched in the Music For All National Honor Band in the Tournament of Roses at the Rose Parade in January of 2017," he said.

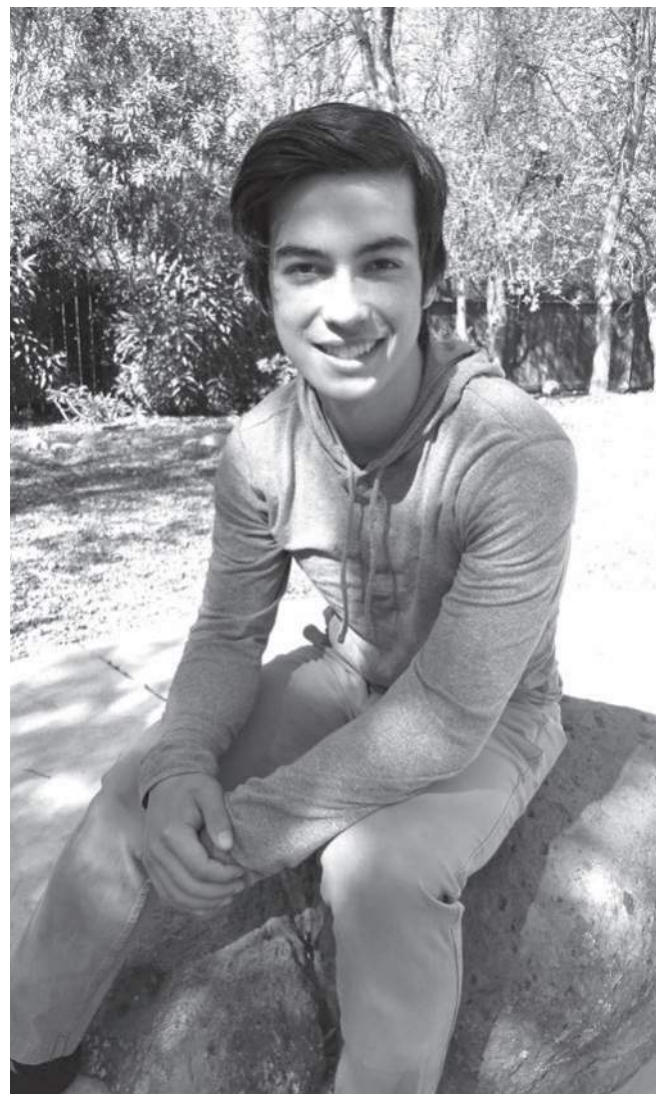
"Finally, his junior year, Joseph won the prestigious Butler University Dean's Full-Scholarship during a competition at the Music For All conference in Indianapolis. Even though he chose to attend Stanford, this was an award given to only one brass player at this national conference," he added.

Aside from his music, Joseph is active at church and sports. In church, a local non-denominational Christian church, he volunteers at the Sunday youth ministries, is a leader in the youth group, and has spent all four years of his high school spring breaks building houses in Mexico for those in need. He plays soccer and tennis and is currently on the Varsity Tennis team at Oak Ridge.

Even though still a teenager, Joseph's ultimate goals are to serve and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

"Our hope, as parents, is for Joseph to continue following his path of serving others, being honest and truthful in all he does, continuing his passion for music, striving to be the best he can be, having balance, making a positive difference, and to have fun. We hope he discovers his true passion and enjoys all aspects of his college life. To be at a university like Stanford is an experience he will never forget and we hope he takes full advantage of what Stanford and the its community offers," Anthony said.

"We are very proud of what he has accomplished and achieved be it academics, church, or music, Joseph has worked extremely hard to maintain and excel in all these areas...hopefully, he will follow a path where he makes a difference to the younger generation where ever he ends up. We are very proud to be Chamorro... very proud to represent Chamorros, Saipan, and the CNMI," he added.



According to his father Anthony Diaz, Joseph is a very well rounded and grounded young man and cannot wait to see what the future holds for him.

## MYPros hosts Membership Meet today

MYPros is hosting its second Membership Meeting of the year today, from 5:30pm to 8pm at the Chambre Bar in Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The purpose of the meeting is to inform members of this year's line-up of events as well as committee goals for 2018.

Young professionals interested in expanding their community involvement are highly encouraged to attend. The Meet includes opportunities to join committees, meet other members, and register to vote. This is also an opportunity for members to register or renew their annual \$30 MYPros membership, the lowest membership fee of any young professional organization on island. Food and drinks will also be available.

The event will also include free headshots thanks to support from MyCaptures Photography.

The Marianas Young Professionals is an independent organization that aims to provide young professionals with unique opportunities for professional development, entrepreneurial endeavors, networking, mentoring, and civic engagement.

MYPros president Matt Deleon Guerrero is excited to inform members about this year's events.

"With our Young Professionals Week coming up at the end of May, we're looking forward to sharing all that we've been planning with our membership base."

MYPros Membership co-chair Jacqueline Cepeda Fu-

jihira encourages employers to consider a membership for their employees an investment in their professional development.

"Our organization would like to invest in your employees. From opportunities to network with other businesses and agencies to workshops that will help them gain new skills, we believe your employee is worth a \$30 MYPros membership."

For more information on the event as well as suggestions for what dishes to bring, please go to the event on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mypros670/>. For more information about the Marianas Young Professionals, visit their page at <http://mypros.org/> or [www.facebook.com/mypros670](http://www.facebook.com/mypros670). (PR)

## CUC announces slew of water service interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there is currently an emergency water service interruption in the Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, Airport Road, As Lito, portions of Koblerville and As Perdido areas.

The cause of the interruption is due to a grounded motor failure that was discovered this morning by CUC water

operations personnel. CUC is currently making the necessary repairs and are anticipated to be completed today at 5pm. Customers should expect restoration of regular scheduled water service hours soon thereafter and are advised to conserve water due to limited water supply. Water scheduled hours are as follows:

■ Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road: 6am-4pm.

■ Airport Road, As Lito, Portions of Koblerville and As Perdido: 24-hours

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/>). (PR)

# Radewagen mourns, remembers senator Akaka

Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen mourns the passing of Hawaii's legendary senator and a godfather to all the Pacific Islands especially American Samoa, former U.S. senator Daniel Akaka.

"Today I both mourn and celebrate the life of former U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, a gracious and humble statesman, whom I have had the privilege of knowing my entire life. Senator Akaka and his wife Millie were dear friends of my parents, a role model to countless Hawaiian and other Pacific Island leaders and a true mentor and inspiration to many, including myself, to become public servants," she said in a statement.

The congresswoman said Akaka was a tireless advocate beyond Hawaii to American Samoa, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Guam, Palau and the Marianas and elsewhere throughout the Asia-Pacific region stemming from his early days as an educator having received both his masters and undergraduate degrees in education from the University of Hawaii.

"Senator Akaka taught many, taught them well and led humbly by example," said Radewagen.



She said having known senator Akaka is something for which she is truly grateful.

"He passed away after a long and distinguished life of service dedicated not only to the people of Hawaii, but also to the people of American Samoa and throughout our country and all over the greater Asia-Pacific region. He was a great man who did a great deal

for everyone. Indeed, he took care of a great many people and improved their lives substantially as reflected in his Ministerial work throughout Micronesia and the Pacific after his World War II service helping reestablish missionary work in the region after the war," she said.

Akaka was the first native Hawaiian to serve in the U.S.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Aumua Amata Radewagen (R-AS) with the late Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii.

Senate and was a strong advocate for native Hawaiians and all Pacific Island people, especially American Samoa.

"He was a tremendous advocate for our veterans, of which he was one having served in the Army in World War II. He had a most distinguished political career that started in the House of Representatives in 1976 until 1990 and then was elevated into the U.S. Senate in 1990 serving until 2013. During his time in the Senate, he served as chairman of both the Veterans and Indians Affairs Committees. He truly shaped the U.S. policy for Hawaii, American Samoa and the Pacific region for several generations and did so in a very positive way," said Radewagen.

"I last had the wonderful opportunity to speak with senator Akaka and to be with him at the funeral of the late Congressman Mark Takai in Honolulu in 2016 when Speaker of the House Paul Ryan asked me to represent him at those services just two years ago. He was in remarkable shape at age 91 and was engaged as ever in discussing the issues to help Hawaii and American Samoa just as always," she added.

"It was good to be with him and I will greatly miss him as I know all of Hawaii and American Samoa will and people around our country and the world will, too. The Aloha spirit is alive and well more than ever because of the life of Senator Daniel Akaka. My thoughts and prayers go out to all his friends, family and constituents as well," said Radewagen. (PR)

## DNC on passing of former senator Daniel Akaka

DNC chair Tom Perez, DNC vice chair Grace Meng, and DNC AAPI Caucus chair Bel Leong-Hong released the following statement on the passing of former Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii:

"Our country and the state of Hawaii lost a great American today. As the first Native

Hawaiian to serve in the U.S. Senate, Senator Daniel Akaka was a fierce advocate for the people of Hawaii. From securing federal money to improve social programs for native Hawaiians to being a leading voice in persuading the United States to formally apologize for its overthrow of the Kingdom

of Hawaii, Senator Akaka always put his constituents first. He spent his entire life fighting for justice and opportunity for all Americans, and there is no doubt we will miss his 'aloha' spirit. Our prayers are with Senator Akaka's wife, Mary, his five children, and his entire family at this difficult time." (PR)

TO RAMON S. AND REBECCA B. DELA CRUZ:

Ramon Santos Dela Cruz is in default upon his Note dates August 25, 2006, secured by a Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the Real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot no. 001 G 74, situated in Kagman I, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 729 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 001 G 03, the original of which was recorder 20 March 1986 as document no. 86-0510 at the Office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

(b) Date and amount of Note and Mortgage: August 25, 2006; \$11,214.00

(c) Amount due for principal: \$483.38 as of June 1, 2017

(d) Amount due for interest: \$2,362.21 as of June 1, 2017

(e) Daily accruing interest: \$2.51

If the principal, interest, and late charges \$2,845.59 plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of \$500.00, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default. Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Si Ramon Santos Dela Cruz ti ha komple i kontratan debiña (Promissory Note) ni ma fitma gi Agosto 25, 2006, ni afabobot i Mortgage ma aseguro ni ma empeña (Mortgage) un propiadat tano, ni afabobot i Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeña (mortgaged):

Sito numiro 011 G 74, ni gaigi gi Kagman I, Saipan, Northern Marianas, ni ha konsiste un aria 729 kuadrao metro, mas pat menus, mas patikulamente ma eksplika gi Drawing/Cadastral Plat numiro 011 G 03, i orihiat ma rekodia 20 Matso 1986 komu dokumento numiro 86-0510 gi ofisinan i Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

(b) I kantida yan i fechan este na debi yan empeña: Agosto 25, 2006; \$11,214.00

(c) Kantida un debi para principat: \$483.38 asta ki Juño 1, 2017

(d) Kantida un debi para interes: \$2,362.21 asta ki Juño 1, 2017

(e) Interes kadi dia: \$2.51

Yanin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) \$2,845.59 yan i rasonle na apas abugado pot \$500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fetcha ni un risible este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma bendi i propiadat tano'ni un empeña guato ni Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yanin halom trenta (30) dias despues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-ña pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asentadu a apulera. Pago yanin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infotoma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmacion pot i dibi-mu despues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i katta-mu gi halom trenta (3) dias siklo, bai in nai' hao in na'an yan address i akredot komo ti parehu ma akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na kata para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi i dibi-mu. Meseha hafa na infotmacion ni in resibe pot este na apudera — siña bai in usa para bai ke-chagi mu rekohi para este i dibi-mu.

/s/  
MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.  
Attorney at Law



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



## INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-18-003

### LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 - LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 - Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of a lift station and forcemain, a new generator building, new and tapping into the existing forcemain. The work also includes the installation of air relief valves, gate valves, and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

**This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOL). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USED A and USDOL.**

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit** is scheduled on **April 10th, 2018 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit.

**One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-18-003, Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 - Lift Station and Forcemain" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2nd, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 18th, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie L. Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Troops at the Mexican border? It's Trump's latest ruse to get his wall

**P**resident Trump announced on Tuesday that he would send military troops to guard the border with Mexico to prevent migrants' illegal entry.

Trump went into an absolute tizzy when he learned that a caravan of immigrants from Central America — about 1,200 of them — had entered Mexico bound for the border with the United States. "Until we can have a border wall and security, we will monitor our border with our armed forces," he said.

But his order was even a surprise to military officers, ordered to send the National Guard to enforce our immigration laws.

The reality is that the caravan, called Viacrucis Migrante, is a symbolic march that has taken place every year since 2010 to make known to the world the challenges migrants endure when they pass through Mexico.

The reality is that the caravan, which on March 25 left the Mexican town of Tapachula in the south, was stopped in its attempt to cross Mexico. But by then, Trump was off and running.

Trump said that his threats prompted the Mexican government to halt the caravan, but the organizers denied that the Mexican authorities had pressured them to end their trek. Irineo Mujica, director of Pueblo Sin Fronteras, which organizes the annual caravans, said that the decision not to continue moving toward the border was because of the high number of participants and disorganization.

The participants were mostly from Honduras, a country plagued by poverty and gang violence, and where instability has only increased since President Juan Orlando Hernández was re-elected in a referendum tarnished by allegations of fraud.

In the caravan came women with children, women who are pregnant and poor people with the hope of reaching the United States to work and help their families in Honduras. If Trump and his supporters consider that group a threat, it's clear they don't know the definition.

Undoubtedly, borders must be monitored, and immigration must be controlled. Trump is right on that point. But his method is the problem. The United States is not facing a massive migration crisis. In fact, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported record-low apprehensions at the southwestern border in 2017.

So what's the point of sending the National Guard to the border, with no thought to cost, approach or effectiveness? The point is, this is for show—Trump's expensive and needless move to force Congress to fund his even more expensive, more needless border wall.

The border, indeed, has been militarized in recent years. President Obama sent 1,200 soldiers to fight drug trafficking. His predecessor, George W. Bush, sent about 6,000 troops for construction of fences and roads. The cost to taxpayers in both instances was astronomical.

Trump's criticism of the immigration policies of his predecessors is getting old. Obama never implemented an open-border policy, as Trump has claimed. In fact, during the first

See TROOPS on Next Page



## Can Trump's 'deal of the century' bring Israel-Palestine peace?

**G**iven the chaos in the White House — and President Donald Trump's rush to abandon Syria to Iran and the next version of ISIS — it's easy to overlook two critical Mideast milestones.

The first was the announcement by Israeli officials that the number of Jews and Arabs living under Israeli control between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean was now equal, at 6.5 million each. That includes Palestinians who live in the occupied areas of West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem as well as Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Which brings us to the second milestone: In May, Trump will reportedly unveil his proposed "deal of the century" for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. If leaked details prove correct, the plan basically endorses the status quo, with limited autonomy for Palestinians in around 40 percent of the West Bank, and Gaza.

Such a plan will only inflame local tensions.

The arrival of population parity provides a warning that the status quo can't hold (the current violence in Gaza is a preview of coming attractions). It confronts Israel with critical choices about whether to divide the land into two states or rule over one state with a (mostly) disenfranchised Arab population that will soon outnumber Jews.

Leading Israeli politicians have said publicly that a one-state solution will lead to a variant of apartheid, with Israelis soon ruling over a Palestinian majority that has no political rights or control over its economy.

Yet on a recent visit to Jerusalem, and in talks with Israeli politicians from left and right, and with Palestinian leaders, I found no one who could offer a formula that avoided the perils of one-state apartheid but resolved Israeli security fears about the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state.

And it would be much harder now to envision a two-sovereign-states formula now than it would have been in the 1980s or 1990s when the Mideast was more stable.

On my recent trip, however, I found a remarkable complacency on the Israeli right based on two assumptions: first, that Trump would accept the annexation of large chunks of the West Bank, leaving Palestinians with limited control over a small, non-contiguous territory; and second, that such a plan would be acceptable to major Arab states such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt that now saw Israel as an ally against Iran.

That thinking is short-sighted. It leaves Israel unprepared for a

**By TRUDY RUBIN**  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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surge in violence from frustrated Palestinian youths who see no decent economic or political future down the road.

So in the run-up to the Trump plan, I intend to present some of the ideas I heard in Israel and the West Bank in several columns, ending with my conclusions on a formula that might at least stabilize the current situation — until the Mideast quiets down.

The most frank thinking about keeping the status that I heard on the right came from Benny Begin, son of the late, former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and a maverick member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party known for his honesty and probity.

"Deal of the century," Begin said of the prospective Trump plan. "Ridiculous!"

Begin believes two sovereign states is an impossible option because it is impossible to bridge the gap between Israelis and Palestinians. In particular, he says the Palestinians can never, as a matter of principle, endorse the end of all claims to pre-1967 Israeli land, or give up the right of Palestinian refugees to return to that land, rather than to their new state. Without the end of such claims irredentism would never end.

Nor can he back the option offered by some on the left to unilaterally withdraw from West Bank territory other than Jewish settlement blocs along Israel's border. He points to Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, which led to control of that territory by the Hamas political group that rules out recognition of any Israeli state.

However, Begin also rejects the idea of one state with equal rights. "My father thought about it, talked about it," Begin says, "But I don't think it is feasible. You can't do it for the whole West Bank unless you have the option of Israeli citizenship for all citizens there. That would change the course of events; Israel would become a different country."

See DEAL on Next Page

# April is National Poetry Month

By JOEY PEPE BATBON CONNOLLY  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## TINIAN 15 N LAT WEATHER WATCH

It is hot, it is hot here year round  
the humidity and the heat are always the same  
it is the same old story always found  
equitable temperatures, latitude, precipitation to blame  
Well we might as well sit down and have a beer  
and talk about the last typhoon  
it's the next one coming that we usually fear  
none yet this year hopefully none very soon  
We might talk about family living in the states  
and horrible ice storms and accidents in the snow  
then there is the rising cost of air fare rates  
and all that traffic makes us not want to go  
Yes, another beer would be good underneath pine trees  
15 F degrees temperature differential if you please.

*The next sonnet was inspired by a traditional Irish country song collected by Padraic Colum, published as “She Moved Through the Fair” in 1909.  
Many slightly different versions of it have been recorded since then.*

## SHE DIED WITH A FLAIR & CAME BACK IN A FLARE

My old love said to me, “All those we love are dead”  
our parents long gone buried at the old homestead  
then she stepped away from me and this she did say  
it will not be long, love, till our own dying day  
she slipped away from me and died with a flair  
fondly I kissed her and stroked her white hair  
her spirit soared skyward towards Venus in the sky  
the Teakettle stars boiled in the Milky Way near by  
and many are the nights as at the stars I stare  
in every meteorite my love passes by in a flare  
she passed by last night a meteorite flare in the black  
she stood by my bedside near the old fishing shack  
she whispered in my ear and this she did say  
I'll see you soon in heaven some sweet day.

## TROOPS

From Page 10

seven years of his administration, Obama deported more than 2.7 million foreigners, the highest figure in U.S. history, which earned him the derisive nickname, “Deporter-in-Chief.”  
Here's what's clear: The obsolete American immigration system must be overhauled.  
We must seek comprehensive, and humane, immigration reform, and not militarize the border to block the passage of desperate people, much less a human deluge that doesn't exist.  
After all, we are America, still.

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## DEAL

From Page 10

He means, of course, that Israel would cease to be a Jewish state.  
So Begin argues for making life better for Palestinians under “the so-called sustainable status-quo of the past five years.” That would include enabling improvements to the Palestinian economy (which is heavily dependent on Israel) and eliminating more Israeli military roadblocks on the West Bank).  
It would also mean making clear, he says, that this interim stage didn't preclude a permanent solution in the future “so neither side ever has to relinquish its hopes.”  
It is on this last point that Begin's concept falters. The current status quo has ceased to be “interim” because Israeli Jewish settlement activity on the West Bank has roared ahead under Netanyahu, including efforts to legalize settlements on seized Palestinian land that divide the West Bank into non-contiguous fragments. Moreover, the current interim phase has blockaded Gaza and turned it into an unbearable prison – however much the blame falls on Hamas.  
The status quo won't hold. I will offer the thinking of other Israeli – and Palestinian – officials in future columns. Meantime, don't hold your breath that the “deal of the century” will turn the tide of history in May.

## A WASP IN THE CITRUS GROVE

I knew the oranges were not sweet  
as I walked from field to field  
though they were great in my tea  
quite juicy and loaded with Vitamin C  
There was a large bushy tree near by  
my house and with fruit it was loaded  
as I plucked my last of four oranges  
a long black wasp flew at me goaded  
It bit the finger of my left hand  
and then flew up and bit my lip  
I flicked it off but up the sleeve  
of my loose shirt it made another trip  
It bit me thrice and heard me howl as it  
flew silently off and left me with a scowl.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Basta...enough is enough

In 1773, the people of Boston had enough. They had enough of paying tribute to and following the rules of a faraway overlord. They had enough of being ordered around. They had enough of having to follow all the rules of their boss's house, without getting any of the benefits. Most of all, they hated the humiliation, lack of respect, and sheer disregard for their welfare that came from their colonial master an ocean away.  
Bostonians dumped their colonial master's tea in the harbor. They formed their own status commission. Proudly, they declared independence:  
When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them...  
Our own schools in the Marianas teach us to admire the Boston Tea Party and the Declaration of Independence. Everybody in America the Beautiful knows the early Boston freedom fighters' story.  
I went to American schools, and I learned the Boston Tea Partiers' story. I admired their willingness to stand up to their colonial masters in the name of self-determination and self-respect.  
And like any good student of history, I want to do more than admire the Boston Tea Party. I want to be inspired by it.  
We, the people of the Marianas, are not any worse than those early Boston colonists. Our skin is browner and our harbor is warmer, but our grievances are basically the same.  
As we try to eke out a living here on our remote islands, the U.S. federal government keeps pointing a finger in our faces. We can't hire who we want. We aren't allowed to pay island market wages; we have to pay the same wages as New York and Washington, D.C. The federal government forces us to follow their faraway rules on everything from how we manage our money to what food we're allowed to eat to how we can farm and mine our own lands. We aren't even allowed to distill our own tuba wine at home without a federal permit.  
Sure, the Americans got some of our well-meaning ancestors to sign some papers back in 1977. They promised to bring them prosperity and economic development. Look around you. Drive around anywhere in the Marianas other than Capital Hill and the federal buildings. Do you see the federal government bringing us any prosperity and economic development?  
The white colonists also tricked the Indigenous Native Americans to sign away their lands, their freedom, and their dignity, sometimes convincing Indigenous Native Americans to trade entire countries for a necklace or a bottle of whiskey.  
Nowadays we know that those deals weren't fair, even if there was ink on paper. Taking away people's land for some vague promises is obviously exploitative. Don't we have the sense to know that the same applies to the Covenant we were made to sign?  
All we got in return was Uncle Sam poking his finger in our eyes, and telling us when to sit, stand, lie down, and heel. We're even allowed to bark a little bit, in the U.S. House of Representatives. But we're definitely not allowed to bite, nor can our Congressional representative.  
Our supposed “representative” can't vote in Congress, and we can't either. Somehow we're lesser beings than Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, and Arkansas.  
But when it comes to following Uncle Sam's rules, we're not given any exceptions or lenience. None. We have to follow every last rule, no matter how much it limits our wellbeing or how much it infringes on our traditional culture. Even though we can't even vote. Even though we can't even get adequate disaster relief or food stamps or funding for our electric grid or hospital.  
We have all the obligations, and none of the benefits. I definitely know how they felt in Boston back then. Do you feel it too?  
Are they going to tell me that I don't know about America?

## I'M NOT AFRAID OF DEATH

I'm not afraid of death  
its just knowing its the last breath  
I'm not afraid of dying  
its hearing all those people crying  
I love Arlo Guthrie's Motorcycle Song  
“and I don't wanna die I just want  
to ride on my motor cy... cle”  
Bob Dylan sang, “Darkness at the break  
of noon...eclipses both the sun and moon  
...he not busy being born is busy dying”  
we know its coming but we can't say when  
it is usually unknown as it has always been  
I'm not afraid of death  
its just knowing its the last breath.

I'm sitting in a hotel room in California as I write this.  
The people cleaning my hotel room are illegal immigrants. I see illegal immigrants openly working on every construction project and every farm here in the Land of the Free. I doubt they're being paid minimum wage or paying any taxes. Everybody knows it and nobody cares. But when illegal immigration happens on our islands, Uncle Sam raises a big commotion and uses it as a pretext to punish us some more and maybe downgrade our food rations and take away our bathroom privileges?  
I see meth addicts and dealers everywhere here in “perfect” California. Every emergency room is full of addicts. Every trailer park resembles the set of *Breaking Bad*. People shrug and say there's no way to stop it and it's a part of life. Yet we, the people of Marianas, are characterized as horrible monsters who don't deserve our U.S. passports because we have drug addicts among our people?  
I see environmental protesters at every factory and development project in California. Yet when we people of the Marianas object to our beautiful islands being made into a bombing range, we're denigrated as ungrateful traitors?  
I see corruption and malfeasance at every level of federal government, from post office clerks all the way up to the top. Yet we Marianas people are singled out, prosecuted, and persecuted in our lands and watched in our own homes and threatened with prison at every step, as if we invented corruption?  
I say: Enough. Basta.  
Enough kicking us.  
Enough giving us rules made to keep us down.  
Enough taking our lands.  
Enough exploiting our waters.  
Enough bombing our islands.  
Enough FBI, CIA, DoD, ATF, SSA, and all the rest of the alphabet of exploitation.  
Basta.  
We are not born to be America's punching bag or obedient pet. Basta.  
We listened in American History class. We're what every teacher is afraid of: we're the students who learned their lesson a little too well. We're going to take the example of the Bostonians and speak truth to power and stop the decades of abuse and humiliation we've been subjected to.  
But unlike those supposed Tea Party heroes who went on a violent spree slashing containers and destroying ships and property, we the people of the Marianas are not thugs or vandals. I don't advocate violence. We island people are a lot less violent than those early American revolutionaries.  
I don't support spilling our exploiters' tea into the harbor. I don't support destroying the containers of noxious Spam and Marlboros they send over to poison us.  
What I do support is the most peaceful, most regular, and most humane path to our dignity and independence: the status commission. The status commission can let us sit down and discuss these issues for ourselves. With the knowledge of history and politics that maybe our ancestors lacked. With the lack of fear of the white man that maybe our ancestors needed a little bit more of.  
Let's say BASTA to the hypocrisy, to the fingers pointed at us, to being told “no,” to being treated like naughty stepchildren.  
Let's find our self-respect. Let's stand up for ourselves. Let's sit down and think and talk about our real future, in a status commission that works for our future, by us and for us. Not somebody else's vision of how we can be useful to Washington.  
Join me. Let's stand for a new Marianas, free of the chains of subjugation, free of fear, free of exploitation.  
Basta. Enough being slaves on our own precious islands.  
Let's find a new way.

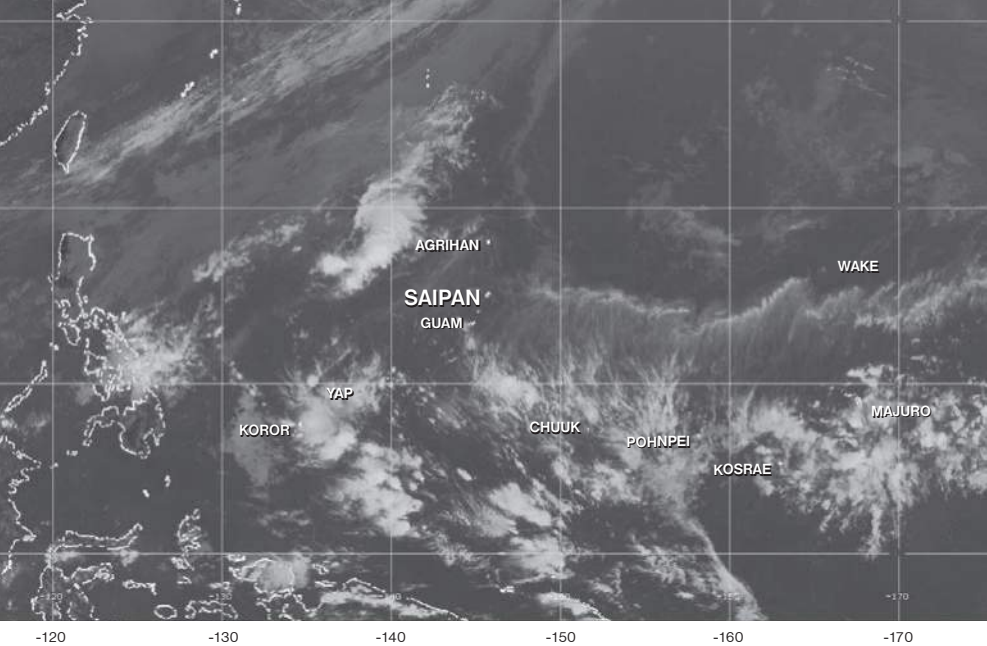
Juan Diego C. Blanco  
As Lito

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 12:37 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The forecast is basically unchanged, with trades due to increase somewhat this week, and moisture expected to decrease in the mid and upper levels. This will mean isolated showers the next few days with mainly partly cloudy skies. The next possibility for significant rainfall is indicated in about a week, when the GFS and, less emphatically, the ECMWF, show a hefty trade-wind disturbance affecting the region. But that is far in the future, and does not appear in the forecast yet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	64° / 54°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	75° / 46°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	81° / 72°	
Honolulu	Showers	79° / 72°	
London	Showers	54° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	70° / 59°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	88° / 63°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	83° / 74°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	44° / 38°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°	
Paris	Showers	61° / 48°	
Busan	Windy	64° / 55°	
Rome	Rain	63° / 52°	
Salem	Showers	69° / 50°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	59° / 49°	
Seoul	Windy	70° / 50°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°	
Washington, DC	Showers	44° / 40°	

### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:34 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.58	
9:03 AM	LOW TIDE	1.19	
1:16 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.42	
8:58 PM	LOW TIDE	0.27	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:07 AM	12:44 PM	-
Tuesday	1:53 AM	1:34 PM	-
Wednesday	2:37 am	2:24 pm	-
Thursday	3:20 AM	3:14 PM	-
Friday	4:02 AM	4:05 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

# Okinawa is *SSV*'s first stop in summer cruise

By **KIMERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
Kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

## Third of a four-part series

The first port call in *SuperStar Virgo*'s Summer Getaway cruise from March 5 to 10 was Okinawa, Japan where participants of Resorts World Manila's familiarization tour were given the opportunity to explore the beautiful city of Naha.

Media outlets and tourism specialists from Saipan, Guam, and Hawaii were given an all-expense paid trip aboard Star Cruises' *SuperStar Virgo* as a part of the Resorts World Manila's fa-

miliarization tour.

On the third day of the five-night, six-day cruise, *SuperStar Virgo* reached Okinawa Japan. Fam tour participants were given the opportunity to explore some of Naha City's historical landmarks.

After a terribly long disembarkation process, fam tour participants set foot on the beautiful port of Naha and were immediately greeted by Okinawa's cool Spring breeze.

During the first part of the tour around Naha City, fam tour participants were taken to the biggest mall located in

Naha, Aeon's. Alongside the fam tour participants was the hit '70s band The Boyfriends, who gave fam tour participants a taste of their sweet vocals.

Fam tour participants were given a little over an hour to have lunch and to shop before the tour's next stop.

Aeon's was an enormous mall that held over 30 different shopping outlets and offered a vast selection of restaurants to appeal to everyone.

After the shopping spree, fam tour participants were transported to Shuri Castle

Park, the castle that belonged to King Shurijo who united the entire prefecture of Okinawa before it became part of Japan.

Although the journey into the castle was long and the passage was a bit steep, tourists and fam tour participants enjoyed the 15-minute trek thanks to the beautiful Okinawan weather and to the many historical monuments to be seen along the way.

After about two hours of exploring Shuri Castle, fam tour participants were transported to the last stop spot on the list of sites to see on

the Okinawa trip, Okinawa's Kokusai street.

Kokusai Street was originally known as "The Miracle Mile" because of its speedy recovery after World War II.

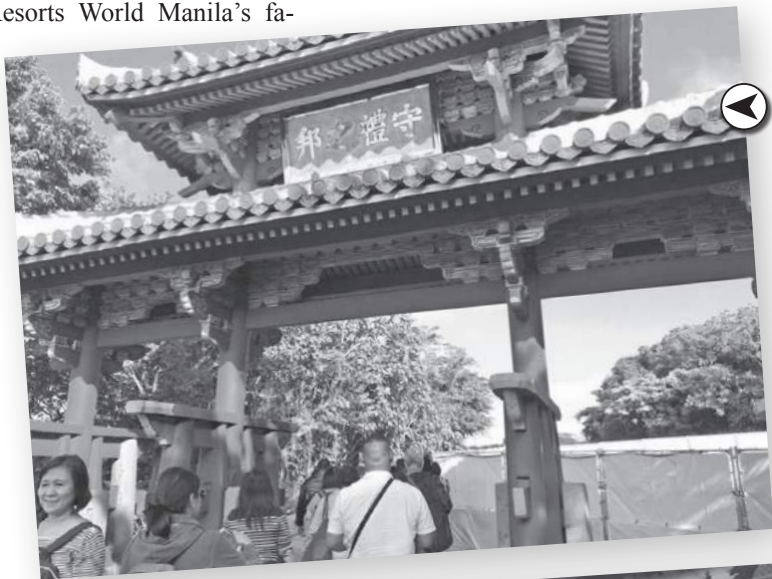
The mile-long street is littered with little shops and restaurants and is one of Okinawa's tourist attractions.

Fam tour participants were given two hours to explore the street and shop for whatever trinkets they wanted to bring home and to try the delectable Japanese street foods.

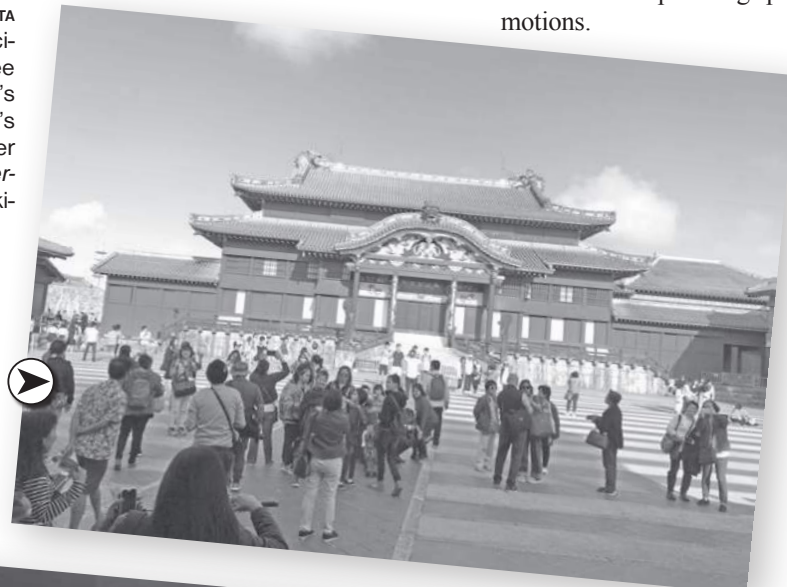
Two hours was not enough time to fully explore Koku-

sai Street because there were over 100 vendors that were placed on both sides of the street. Some vendors sold little trinkets and souvenirs that represent Okinawa, some sold street food, some sold clothing, but all were respectful and kind to tourists and locals alike.

For individuals interested in choosing the *SuperStar Virgo* for their next getaway, feel free to contact Star Cruises marketing executive Lynch Imbat at (02) 836-6000 loc. 6179 /+63917 6370794 or email her at [jan.imbat@gentingcruiselines.com](mailto:jan.imbat@gentingcruiselines.com) for current and upcoming promotions.

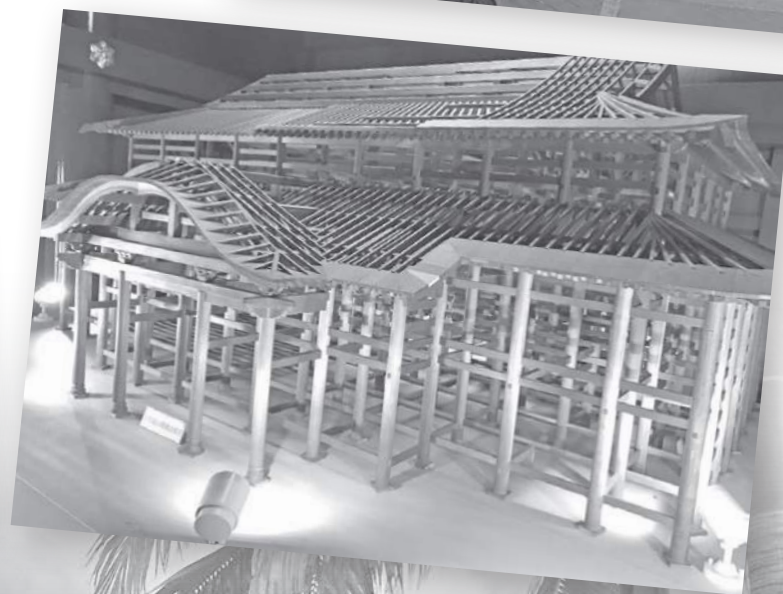


**KIMERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
Resorts World Manila fam tour participants were given the opportunity to see the magnificent first gate into Okinawa's Shuri Castle which represents Okinawa's welcoming nature toward visitors and other countries during the Star Cruises' *SuperStar Virgo* summer cruise port stop on Okinawa, Japan.



**KIMERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
Resorts World Manila fam tour participants were given the opportunity to see the visit Okinawa's Shuri Castle during the Star Cruises' *SuperStar Virgo* summer cruise port stop on Okinawa, Japan.

**KIMERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
Resorts World Manila fam tour participants were given the opportunity to see the throne room within Okinawa's Shuri Castle during the Star Cruises' *SuperStar Virgo* summer cruise port stop on Okinawa, Japan.



**KIMERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
A diagram of the original Shuri Castle was displayed within the refurbished Shuri Castle that was visited by Resorts World Manila fam tour participants during the Star Cruises' *SuperStar Virgo* summer cruise port stop on Okinawa, Japan.



**KIMERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
Resorts World Manila fam tour participants were able to visit all the little shops along Okinawa's famous Kokusai street during the Star Cruises' *SuperStar Virgo* summer cruise port stop on Okinawa, Japan.

2018 Elections GOP Kickoff Rally

PHOTOS By BEA CABRERA



Supporters ask motorists to wave and honk their horns to show support during the mile-long, road-waving campaign last Friday.



The NMI Republican Party had its first road-waving campaign along Beach Road in San Jose last Friday where motorists were greeted by candidates with their families and supporters. The Torres/Palacios tandem is running under the NMI Republican Party and faces no challengers to date. Lt. Gov. Office chief of staff John Oliver Gonzales seen at the first thread of the mile long waving campaign at San Jose Beach Road last Friday



Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion and lawyers Kimberly King-Hinds and Viola Alepuyo were present in full support of the NMI Republican Party candidates.



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who is seeking re-election in the November polls, joins his supporters at the mile-long, road-waving campaign held Friday along Beach Road in San Jose.



Rep. Angel Demapan supporters do the wave shouting "Demapan for U.S. Congress" at the mile-long, road-waving campaign along Beach Road in San Jose last Friday.



Supporters of Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang shows support the GOP ticket at the mile-long, road-waving campaign held Friday along Beach Road in San Jose.



A young girl shows support for NMI Republican party bets at the mile-long, road-waving campaign held Friday along Beach Road in San Jose.



Senate President Arnold Palacios, who is running for lieutenant governor, waves at motorists at the mile-long, road-waving campaign held Friday along Beach Road in San Jose.

# Business

## White House sends mixed signals on trade fight; markets dive

WASHINGTON (AP)—The trade clash between President Donald Trump and China's government is escalating, with Beijing pledging to "counterattack with great strength" if Trump follows through on threats to impose tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in Chinese goods.

Trump made his out-of-the-blue move when China threatened to retaliate for the first round of tariffs planned by the United States. But for someone who has long fashioned himself as a master negotiator, Trump left it unclear whether he was bluffing or willing to risk a long trade dispute between the world's two biggest economies, with steep consequences for consumers, businesses and an already shaken stock market.

"They aren't going to bully him into backing down," said Stephen Moore, a former Trump campaign adviser who is now a visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation. He said the Chinese "are going to have to make concessions - period."

The White House sent mixed signals on Friday as financial markets slid from investor concern about a significant trade fight.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told CNBC he was "cautiously optimistic" that



A screen above the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the closing number for the Dow Jones industrial average, Friday, April 6, 2018.

the U.S. and China could reach an agreement before any tariffs go into place. But, he added, "there is the potential of a trade war."

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told reporters the U.S. was "not in a trade war," adding, "China is the problem. Blame China, not Trump."

Trump's latest proposal

intensified what was already shaping up to be the biggest trade battle for more than a half century. The U.S. bought more than \$500 billion in goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports. The U.S. sold about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China responds in kind.

Global financial markets have fallen sharply as the world's two biggest economies squared off—the Dow Jones industrial average sank 572 points Friday.

Trump told advisers Thursday he was unhappy with China's decision to tax \$50 billion in American products, including soybeans and small aircraft, in response to a U.S. move this

week to impose tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods.

Rather than waiting weeks for the U.S. tariffs to be implemented, Trump backed a plan by Robert Lighthizer, his trade representative, and was encouraged by Peter Navarro, a top White House trade adviser, to seek the enhanced tariffs.

China said negotiations were impossible under the circumstances. But Trump officials said the president and his team remained in contact with President Xi Jinping and expressed hope to him of resolving the dispute through talks.

In Beijing, a Commerce Ministry spokesman said China doesn't want a trade war—but isn't afraid to fight one.

"If the U.S. side announces the list of products for \$100 billion in tariffs, the Chinese side has fully prepared and

will without hesitation counterattack with great strength," spokesman Gao Feng said. He gave no indication what measures Beijing might take.

Trump has also pushed for a crackdown on China's theft of U.S. intellectual property, and he criticized the World Trade Organization, an arbiter of trade disputes, in a tweet Friday for allegedly favoring China. Trump asserted the WTO gives the Asian superpower "tremendous perks and advantages, especially over the U.S."

U.S. officials have played down the threat of a broader trade dispute, saying a negotiated outcome is still possible. But economists warn that the tit for tat bears the hallmarks of a classic trade rift that could keep growing. Worry is intensifying among Republicans,

who traditionally have favored liberalized trade.

"The administration needs to be thinking about the unintended consequences and what are those ripple effects, those domino effects, and what are the retaliatory actions that are likely to be taken," said South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the Senate's No. 3 Republican, in an interview with KDLT-TV in Sioux Falls.

The standoff began last month when the U.S. imposed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. China countered by announcing penalties on \$3 billion worth of U.S. products. The next day, the United States proposed the \$50 billion in duties on Chinese imports. Beijing responded within hours with a threat of further tariffs of its own.

Further escalation could be in the offing. The U.S. Treasury is working on plans to restrict Chinese technology investments in the United States. And there's talk that the U.S. could also put limits on visas for Chinese who want to visit or study in this country.

Kudlow told reporters the U.S. may provide a list of suggestions to China "as to what we would like to have come out of this," and those issues were under discussion.

"Negotiations are better than tariffs," Kudlow said. "A solution in the next three months would be better than anything. I think that's eminently doable." He added: "But Trump is not just using tariffs as a negotiating card. He said that to me."

### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

#### **Facebook suspends Canadian firm amid data mining scandal**

**MENLO PARK, Calif.** (AP)—Facebook says it has suspended a Canadian political consulting firm amid media reports it had ties to Cambridge Analytica, a British data mining company accused of obtaining data from up to 87 million Facebook users to sway elections. Menlo Park, California-based Facebook says in a statement issued Saturday that AggregateIQ may have improperly received data from Facebook users. AggregateIQ will lose all Facebook access. Cambridge Analytica was employed by Donald Trump's presidential campaign. It says it received data from 30 million users but never used it in the 2016 campaign. Whistleblowers say AggregateIQ worked on the campaign for Great Britain to exit the European Union. AggregateIQ says on its website it isn't part of Cambridge Analytica or parent firm SCL. It says it didn't have access to Facebook data from Cambridge Analytica.

#### **Owner of waterpark where boy died probed over home dispute**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—The co-owner of a Kansas waterpark where a 10-year-old boy was decapitated on a raft ride is being investigated in Texas over a confrontation with people in his home. New Braunfels, Texas, police say a woman reported Thursday that Jeff Henry had threatened her. Henry has not been charged. Henry co-owns Schlitterbahn Water Parks and Resorts and is charged with murder in the 2016 death of Caleb Schwab, who died on a waterslide when his raft went airborne and hit an overhead loop. Henry made his first court appearance in Kansas and flew back to Texas on Thursday. Defense attorney Ron Barroso tells KSHB-TV when Henry arrived at his home he discovered people staying there had burglarized and ransacked it. He says Henry confronted them, which prompted the woman's call to police. Barroso says Henry plans to file charges.

## Air France strike sees 30 percent of flights cancelled

**PARIS (AP)**—Some 30 percent of Air France flights were cancelled Saturday as strikes over pay rises appear to be intensifying.

And that's just part of France's travel troubles this month. Most French trains will screech to a halt as a strike over President Emmanuel Macron's economic reforms resumes Saturday night—a strike that is set to last through Monday.

Screens at Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport showed red "cancelled" notes next to multiple flights Saturday, as families around France and Europe headed off on spring vacations.

The one-day Air France walkout is affecting international and domestic travel, notably a quarter of flights at Paris' Charles de Gaulle and Orly airports. Air France is urging passengers to check the status of their flights before coming to the airport and offering to change tickets for free.

It's the fifth Air France strike since February, and the number of cancelled flights is rising. Unions this week announced more strikes this month to coincide with national rail walkouts.

Air France unions want 6 percent pay raises after years of salary freezes. Air France is offering 1 percent raises, say-

ing anything higher will hurt its turnaround efforts.

The strikes have been costing Air France some 20 million euros (\$24.6 million) a day and have hurt its share price.

Meanwhile, the SNCF national railway announced that 80 percent of high speed trains and two-thirds of regional trains will be canceled starting Saturday night as unions stage another two-day walkout.

About a quarter of Eurostar trains to London will be cancelled, and no trains were expected to run at all to Switzerland, Spain or Italy.

It's part of three months of rolling train strikes seen as the

biggest challenge to Macron since he took office last year. Rail unions are angry at plans by Macron's government to abolish a generous benefits system that gives train workers jobs for life.

Both the government and unions are holding firm despite continuing negotiations. France prides itself on its railways, seen as a pillar of public service.

Macron argues that the special status for train workers is no longer tenable in a globalized and increasingly automated economy. It's part of his broader plans to overhaul the French economy to make it more competitive.

# Nation

## 2020 census test has critics counting concerns, not people

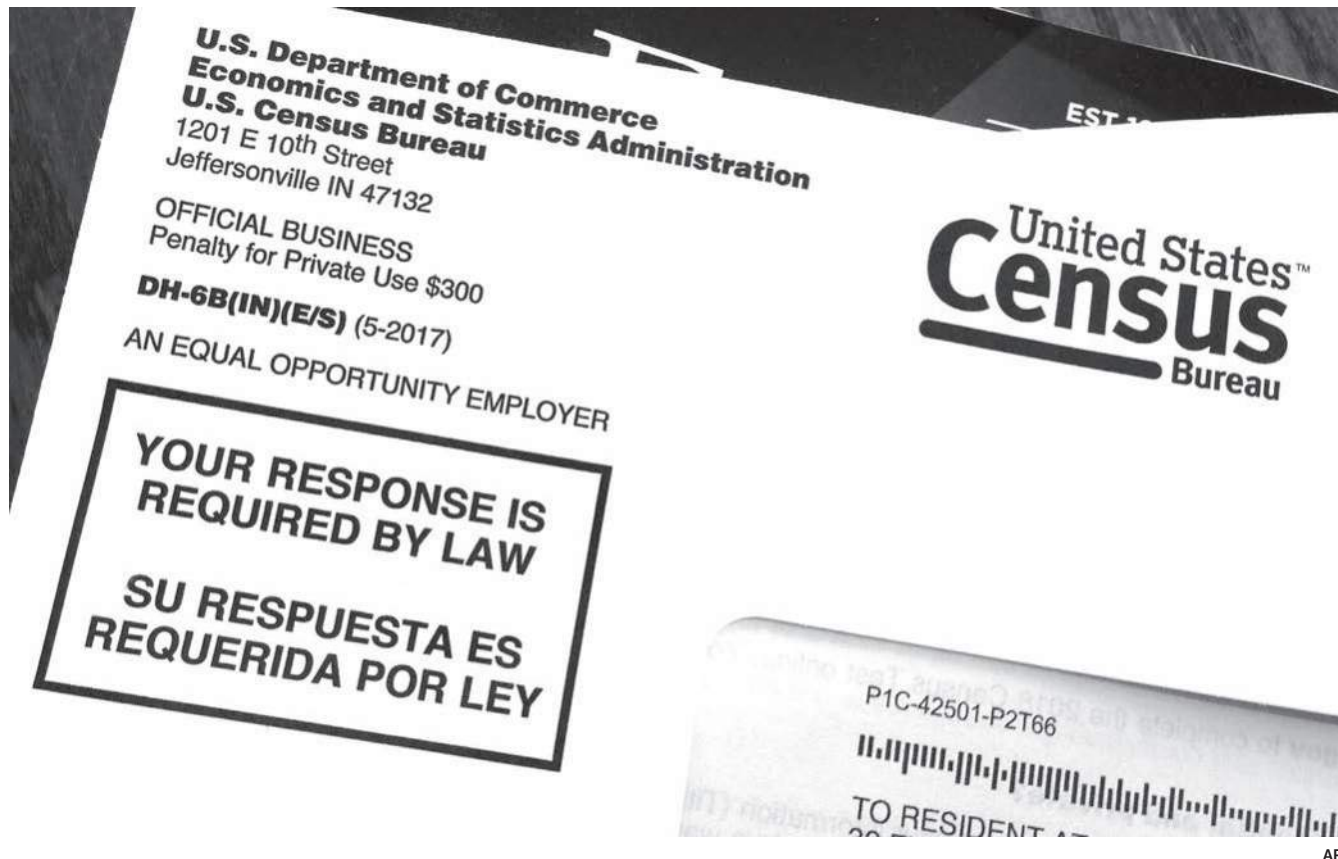
**PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—**The success of the 2020 census, which will be the first to include an online survey, could hinge on a single “dress rehearsal” underway right now in Rhode Island—and so far, many locals aren’t impressed.

Providence County, the state’s most populous, is the only place where the Census Bureau is running a full test, after plans to test two other sites this year were canceled because of a lack of funding from Congress. A planned question about citizenship that has states suing the federal government isn’t on the test.

Several elected officials and leaders of advocacy and community groups this week held an “emergency press conference” to raise concerns, which include a shortage of publicity around the test and its limited language outreach in an immigrant-heavy county, with large communities from countries including the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Portugal and Cape Verde.

“If we don’t get it right here, then the country’s not going to get it right,” Democratic Lt. Gov. Dan McKee warned.

The concerns in Rhode Island are the latest evidence of mounting apprehension over the 2020 census. Seventeen states and six cities, includ-



This March 23, 2018 photo shows an envelope containing a 2018 census test letter mailed to a resident in Providence, R.I.

ing Rhode Island and its largest city, Providence, sued the federal government on Tuesday to block a question the administration of Republican President Donald Trump announced last month it would ask about citizenship.

The 2020 census will be the first to give respondents the option of answering online. Census Bureau officials say

that the Rhode Island test is on track, and that they’re focused on ensuring new technology works, including a smartphone app being used by canvassers and cloud computing.

“There’s things that aren’t exactly the way they need to be. But we’re learning that; we’re making the changes on the fly,” said Jeff Behler, a regional Census Bureau

director who is overseeing the test. “We’re getting some very critical information about changes that we need to make. And we have time to do that.”

In the test, which began March 16, 280,000 homes in Providence County are receiving snail-mail letters that direct residents to a survey website or toll-free phone number. There, they can complete the survey, which includes questions including

about age, race and ethnicity.

People may also call to get a paper version of the census sent to them, but census officials hope most will do it online because it is less expensive.

A response is legally required. Those who don’t respond on their own will get a personal visit, with door-knocking scheduled through July, Behler said. Census workers who visit homes

## Arizona, Texas send 400 troops to border after Trump’s call

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—**Arizona and Texas announced Friday that they would send 400 National Guard members to the U.S.-Mexico border by next week in response to President Donald Trump’s call for troops to fight drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said about 150 Guard members would deploy next week. And the Texas National Guard said it was already sending Guardsmen to the border, with plans to place 250 troops there in the next 72 hours as an “initial surge,” according to a Guard spokesman. Two helicopters lifted off Friday night from Austin, the state capital, to head south.

The total so far remains well short of the 2,000 to 4,000 National Guard members that Trump told reporters he wants to send. New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez’s office said Friday that it had not yet deployed any Guard members. The office of California Gov. Jerry Brown did not respond to questions about whether it would deploy troops.

Trump’s proclamation Wednesday directing the use

of National Guard troops refers to Title 32, a federal law under which Guard members remain under the command and control of their state’s governor. This leaves open the possibility that California’s Brown could turn him down.

Defense Secretary James Mattis Friday night approved paying for up to 4,000 National Guard personnel from the Pentagon budget through the end of September. A Defense Department memo says the National Guard personnel will not perform law enforcement functions or “interact with migrants or other persons detained” without Mattis’s approval. It said “arming will be limited to circumstances that might require self-defense,” but it did not further define that.

Deployments to the border under former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama both occurred under Title 32. Bush sent around 6,000 troops in 2006, and Obama sent 1,200 Guard members in 2010.

Trump’s proclamation blamed “the lawlessness that continues at our southern bor-

der.” Trump has suggested he wants to use the military on the border until progress is made on his proposed border wall, which has mostly stalled in Congress.

After plunging at the start of Trump’s presidency, the numbers of migrants apprehended at the southwest border have started to rise in line with historical trends. The Border Patrol said it caught around 50,000 people in March, more than three times the number in March 2017. That’s erased a decline for which Trump repeatedly took credit. Border apprehensions still remain well below the numbers when Bush and Obama deployed the Guard to the border.

News reports of a caravan of Central American migrants passing through southern Mexico also sparked angry tweets from the president. The caravan of largely Central American migrants never intended to reach the U.S. border, according to organizer Irineo Mujica. But Trump has repeatedly cited it as an example of what he called America’s weak immigration laws.

## Democrats even in GOP country shift toward gun restrictions

**OMAHA, Nebraska (AP)—**Just 18 months after declaring his opposition to banning assault weapons, Nebraska Democrat Brad Ashford has changed his mind.

The former one-term congressman, now trying to win back an Omaha-area seat he lost in 2016, used to consider it futile to push for a ban while Republicans held power on Capitol Hill. But the student activism that has followed the rampage at a school in Parkland, Florida, has changed his thinking in a way that other high-profile shootings, including two in his hometown since 2007, had not.

Ashford’s conversion mirrors the one underway in his party. Not long ago, a moderate record on guns would have been considered a plus for a Democratic candidate in the GOP-leaning suburbs and conservative outskirts of Nebraska’s largest city. Today, even with Ashford’s reversal, it’s a vulnerability that his opponent in the May 15 Democratic primary has been quick to exploit.

That contest, along with races in Virginia, rural Pennsylvania and other places where gun control has been taboo, shows how far the Democratic Party has traveled on this issue. The November elections will test whether Democrats will make room for candidates who don’t back all gun control measures.

“He should have been stronger on this,” said Kara Eastman, the 46-year-old political newcomer running against Ashford, a 68-year-old former Republican, for the Democratic nomination in the 2nd Congressional District. “We need leaders who are going to stand up and fight for the kids.”

Eastman, director of a children’s nonprofit group and a community college board member, has focused her message on suburban women and young people. She and other progressives, energized by rallies across the country, say they the best way to turn out voters is to offer a contrast to pro-gun Republicans.

“Women have had it with what’s going on,” said Crystal

will use a new smartphone app, instead of paper forms, to enter information they collect in person.

The test survey does not include any question on citizenship, having begun several days before the Trump administration’s announcement that it was adding that question, although many people received the letters telling them to take their census around the time the announcement was made.

Entities that use census data worry about including a question on the census without testing it first.

“Adding a question at this late stage of the Census process does not allow time for adequate testing to incorporate new questions, particularly if the testing reveals substantial problems,” the American Statistical Association wrote in a January letter to the federal government.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said he added the citizenship question at the request of the Justice Department to provide a more accurate tally of the number of voting-eligible residents in each neighborhood. Many Democratic officials and advocacy groups fear the question will scare people away from participating because they view the Trump administration as hostile to immigrants, diminishing the survey’s overall accuracy.

Rhoades, the Douglas County Democratic Party chairwoman who supports Eastman. “They’re mad that they have to worry about sending their kids to school out of fear they’ll be murdered.”

Polling shows there’s little disagreement among Democrats on the question of stricter gun laws.

A poll last month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 69 percent of those surveyed, including 90 percent of Democrats, think gun laws in the U.S. should be tightened.

There are political risks.

The Omaha district represented by Republican Don Bacon has a healthy number of gun owners, and that could make Eastman’s call for comprehensive gun control a problem for her if she advances to the general election. The GOP-leaning district includes a portion of a rural county south of the city where many active duty and retired military personnel from Offutt Air Force Base live.

# Asia

## Ex-S. Korean leader Park gets 24-year prison term

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Former South Korean President Park Geun-hye was formally convicted and sentenced to 24 years in prison on Friday, a year after she was driven from office and arrested over a corruption scandal that saw months of massive street rallies calling for her ouster.

The conviction, which she can appeal, is the latest hit in a dramatic fall for South Korea's first female president. Once seen as the darling of South Korean conservatives, she was dubbed "Queen of Elections" by local media for her track record of leading her party to victory in tight races and still has a small group of fierce supporters who regularly stage rallies calling for her release.

Park maintains she's a victim of "political revenge" and has been refusing to attend court sessions since October. She didn't attend Friday's verdict, citing a sickness that wasn't specified publicly.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Saturday called disgraced former South Korean President Park Geun-



hye a "traitor" responsible for "extra-large hideous corruption," in its first reaction to the sentencing of Park to 24 years in prison on corruption charges.

The insults carried by the

North's official Korean Central News Agency came a day after the Seoul Central District Court found Park guilty on a variety of charges, including abusing her power and taking tens and millions of dollars from companies in bribes and through extortion. She had been under arrest since March last year.

The relations between the

Koreans were terrible while the conservative Park was in office as she took a hard line after the North accelerated its nuclear weapons and missile tests in 2016.

Millions of South Koreans protested for Park's ouster before an opposition-controlled parliament voted to impeach her in December 2016. Park

was formally removed from office and arrested in March last year. She called her trial political revenge and declined to attend court sessions.

In a nationally televised verdict, the Seoul Central District Court convicted Park of bribery, extortion, abuse of power and other charges. "It's inevitable that the defendant should be held strictly respon-

AP  
In this April 6, 2018 photo, people watch a TV screen showing file footage of former South Korean President Park Geun-hye during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea.

sible for her crimes, if only to prevent the unfortunate event of (a president) abusing the power given by the people and causing chaos in state affairs," chief judge Kim Se-yun said.

Along with the prison sentence, Park was also fined 18 billion won (\$16.8 million), Kim said.

Both Park and the prosecutors have one week to appeal. Park has previously maintained her innocence; prosecutors in February demanded a 30-year prison term.

The Seoul court convicted Park of colluding with longtime confidante Choi Soon-sil to pressure 18 business groups to donate a total of 77.4 billion won (\$72.3 million) for the launch of two foundations controlled by Choi. The two women were also convicted of taking bribes from some of those companies, including more than 7 billion won (\$6.5 million) alone from Samsung in return for government support for a smooth company leadership transition.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Najib heads into tough race with vow to make Malaysia great

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak unveiled a lavish election manifesto with cash benefits targeting rural ethnic Malays, his key voting bloc, as he faces an unprecedented challenge from a revived opposition led by his former mentor, Mahathir Mohamad. Najib, 64, is seeking a third term in office under pressure to improve his National Front coalition's performance after support eroded in the last two elections. He has been dogged by a massive corruption scandal involving the 1MDB state fund, which is under investigation in the U.S. and other countries for allegations of cross-border embezzlement and money laundering. The 220-page election manifesto, which includes 364 pledges, was launched Saturday, the day Parliament was dissolved to pave the way for national polls expected in early May. His campaign slogan "Make my country great with BN"—the Malay acronym for the National Front—has similarities with President Donald Trump's 2016 election motto "Make America great again." "This election is not about Najib versus the opposition leader. This election is not about BN versus

the opposition," Najib told tens of thousands of supporters at the manifesto launching at a sports stadium near Kuala Lumpur. "The key question is which side can provide a better life for you, your family, children and grandchildren, as well as their future." Veteran opposition lawmaker Lim Kit Siang said the manifesto was "wrong and misleading." He said the 1MDB fiasco had turned Malaysia into a "global kleptocracy" and that voting for the ruling coalition will not make it great but will destroy Malaysia.

#### US diplomat's car kills Pakistani motorcyclist in capital

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani police say a car carrying an American diplomat has accidentally hit a Pakistani motorcyclist in the capital, Islamabad, killing him on the spot. Local police official Shafi Ullah said the U.S. diplomat was not arrested as he enjoyed immunity under international law. The U.S. embassy confirmed Saturday's road accident and said it was cooperating with authorities in the investigation. It was not immediately clear whether the diplomat was himself driving the car at the time. Hundreds of motorists are killed every year in Pakistan mainly because of disregard for traffic rules.

## China applies its own maximum pressure policy on Pyongyang

TOKYO (AP)—As the U.S.-North Korea summit looms, President Donald Trump's maximum pressure policy on North Korea may be working—thanks to China.

Beijing appears to have gone well beyond U.N. sanctions on its unruly neighbor, reducing its total imports from North Korea in the first two months this year by 78.5 and 86.1 percent in value—a decline that began in late 2017, according to the latest trade data from China. Its exports to the North also dropped by 33 percent to 34 percent both months.

The figures suggest that instead of being sidelined while North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made his surprising diplomatic overtures to Seoul and Washington, China's sustained game of hardball on trade with Pyongyang going back at least five months may have been the decisive factor in forcing Kim's hand.

Trade with China is absolutely crucial to North Korea's survival.

It accounts for the largest share of the North's dealings with the outside world and provides a lifeline to many of the necessities Pyongyang re-

lies on to keep its nation fed and its economy from breaking down. Estimates vary, but it is believed that roughly half of all transactions in the North Korean economy are made in foreign currencies, with the Chinese yuan being the most common.

That gives Beijing tremendous leverage, though for political and national security reasons it has generally been reluctant to exert too much pressure on Pyongyang.

That reluctance is clearly wearing thin.

The statistics need to be taken with a dose of caution. Neither country is known for its commitment to transparency. Even so, more specific data reveal an even tougher, targeted crackdown, according to Alex Wolf, a senior emerging markets economist with Aberdeen Standard Investments:

■ China's exports of refined petroleum have collapsed over the past five months - to an annual rate of less than 4 percent of what it exported last year. With the pace on a downward trend, he believes, total exports could actually fall further.

■ North Korean steel imports from China have also collapsed in 2018, and the

same goes for cars. Wolf notes that it's unclear if China is blocking such exports or North Korea simply can't afford them. But either one, he wrote in a recent report for the company, would be a clear signal the North's economy is "under a great deal of stress."

"While China's role over the past few months has often been overlooked or little understood, it appears a strategy could be emerging: China wants to play a central role in 'resolving' this crisis, but wants to do it on its own terms," he wrote. "It's increasingly clear that Chinese pressure is a driving force and China will play a central role in any future talks."

Kim announced in his New Year's address he would reach out to the South to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula. He then agreed to hold a summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on April 27 and with Trump after that. But to the surprise of many, Kim suddenly showed up in Beijing first for a summit with President Xi Jinping last month, underscoring the continued primacy of China in North Korea's foreign relationships.

Lu Chao, director of the Border Study Institute at the Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences, noted that China accounts for almost 80 percent of the North's total trade, meaning the onus for implementing U.N. sanctions has been mainly borne by Beijing, whose enforcement has created "huge pressure on North Korea."

"There is no doubt China is doing more than ever when it comes to sanctions," he said, adding restrictions on sales of textile and seafood products to North Korea imposed by China last autumn "have dealt a huge blow to the country."

"China has played a very important role in promoting the current change of the situation," he said.

The decrease in trade isn't just about politics.

China's economy is also dealing with overproduction in many industries and its demand for North Korean imports is low. Efforts at joint development projects have languished and difficulties suffered by Chinese firms in North Korea—especially problems receiving payment—have soured enthusiasm for cross-border trade.

# World

## Activists, medics: Gas attack near Syrian capital kills 40

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Syrian activists, rescuers and medics said Sunday that a poison gas attack on a rebel-held town near the capital has killed at least 40 people, allegations denied by the Syrian government.

The alleged attack in the town of Douma occurred late Saturday amid a resumed offensive by Syrian government forces after the collapse of a truce.

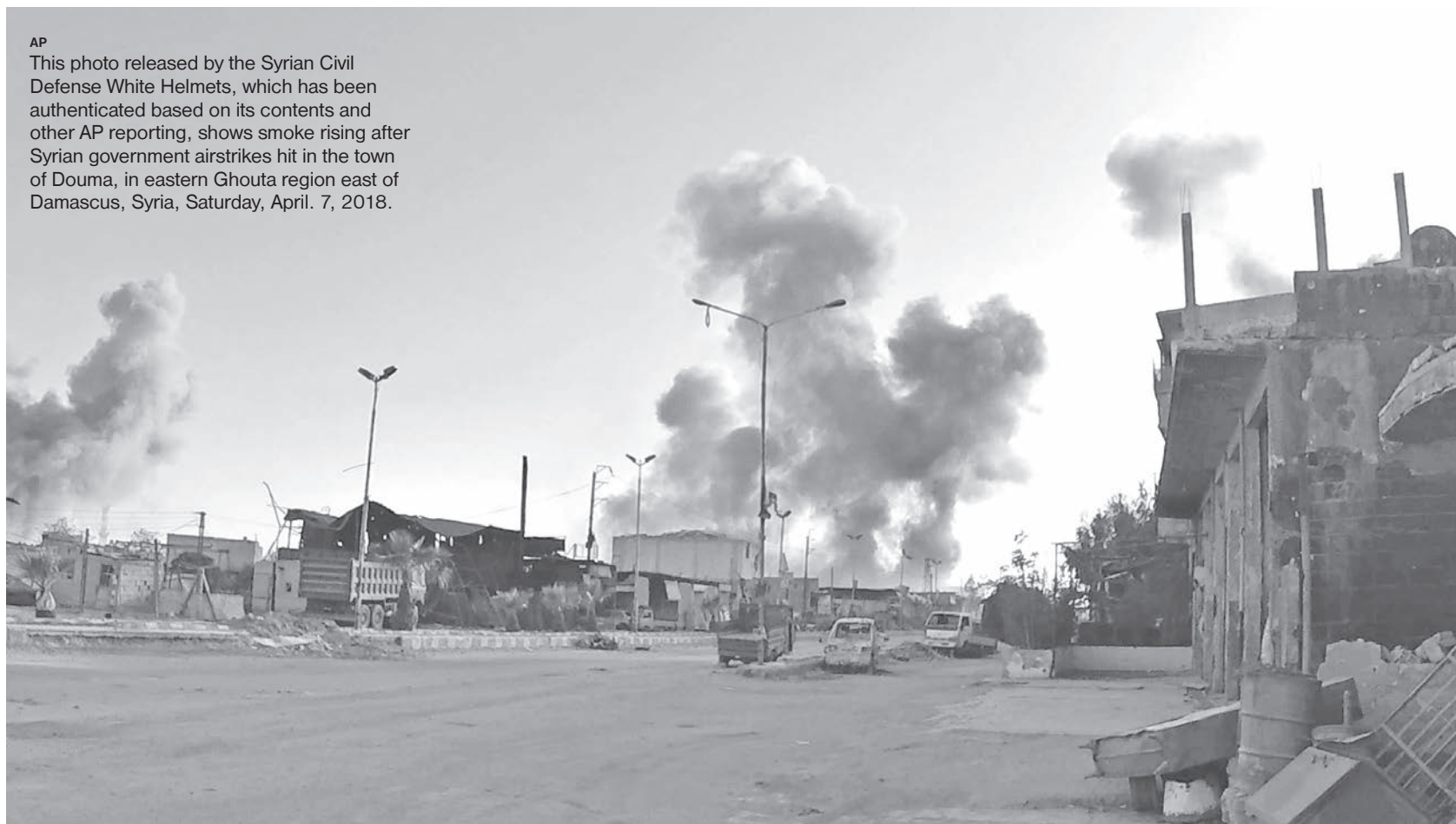
The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 80 people were killed in Douma on Saturday, including around 40 who died from suffocation.

Opposition-linked first responders, known as the White Helmets, also reported the attack, saying entire families were found suffocated in their homes and shelters. It reported a death toll from suffocation of more than 40. The Syrian American Medical Society, a relief organization, said 41 people were killed and hundreds wounded.

The reports could not be independently verified.

Syrian government forces resumed their offensive on rebel-held Douma on Friday afternoon after a 10-day truce collapsed over disagreement regarding the evacuation of opposition fighters. Violence resumed days after hundreds

AP  
This photo released by the Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows smoke rising after Syrian government airstrikes hit in the town of Douma, in eastern Ghouta region east of Damascus, Syria, Saturday, April. 7, 2018.



of opposition fighters and their relatives left Douma toward rebel-held areas in northern Syria. Douma is the last rebel stronghold in eastern Ghouta.

The alleged gas attack in Douma comes almost exactly a year after a chemical attack

in the northern Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun killed dozens of people. That attack prompted U.S. President Donald Trump to order a missile attack on a Syrian air base. The Syrian government and its ally, Russia, denied any involvement in

the alleged gas attack.

Douma is in the suburbs of Damascus known as eastern Ghouta. A chemical attack in eastern Ghouta in 2013 that was widely blamed on govern-

ment forces killed hundreds of people, prompting the U.S. to threaten military action before later backing down.

Syria denies ever using chemical weapons during the

seven-year civil war, and says it eliminated its chemical arsenal under a 2013 agreement brokered by the U.S. and Russia after the attack in eastern Ghouta.

## Once wildly popular, Brazil's da Silva is jailed for graft

**CURITIBA, Brazil (AP)**—Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was spending his first night in jail, a stunning fall from grace for a man who rose from nothing to lead Latin America's largest nation and later became engulfed in corruption allegations.

Foreshadowing possible clashes in the weeks to come, police shot rubber bullets and sprayed tear gas late Saturday at supporters waiting for da Silva as he landed in a police helicopter in the southern city of Curitiba, where he will serve his 12-year sentence for money laundering and corruption.

Just a few hours before that, da Silva had to have guards push their way out of a metal workers union in a Sao Paulo suburb so he could turn himself in to police; supporters were trying to keep him from going into custody.

Speaking to thousands of supporters at the union that was the spiritual birthplace of da Silva's rise to prominence, the former leader said would turn himself in so as to continue fighting a corruption conviction that he said amounted to a way for enemies to make sure he doesn't run—and possibly win—re-election in October.

When he first tried to leave

the metal workers union headquarters, however, dozens of supporters blocked a gate where a car carrying da Silva was trying to exit.

"Surround, surround (the building) and don't let them arrest him," chanted supporters. After a few minutes of tense words between guards and supporters, the former president got out of the car and entered the headquarters.

Police vehicles surrounded the union, raising the fears of clashes. Da Silva emerged a second time shortly after nightfall, this time surrounded by bodyguards who pushed back scores of supporters who tried to stop his advance.

Such dramatic scenes throughout the day underscored the drama that has rapt a nation deeply divided on da Silva's legacy and whether he is guilty of corruption. The latest developments began when the Supreme Federal Tribunal, the country's top court, ruled against his petition on Thursday to remain free while he continued to appeal his conviction.

Judge Sergio Moro, who oversees many of the so-called "Car Wash" cases, then ordered an arrest warrant for da Silva, giving him until 5 p.m. Friday to present himself

to police in Curitiba, about 260 miles (417 kilometers) southwest of Sao Bernardo do Campo, and begin serving his 12-year sentence.

Da Silva, who Brazilians simply call "Lula," did no such thing. Instead, he hunkered down with supporters in the union headquarters.

"The police and 'Car Wash' investigators lied. The prosecutors lied," said da Silva, as a few thousand supporters cheered.

"I don't forgive them for giving society the idea that I am a thief," he continued.

Still, da Silva said he would turn himself in "to go there and face them eye to eye. The more days they leave me (in jail), the more Lulas will be born in this country."

While da Silva spoke, some people cried while others chanted "Free Lula!" When he finished speaking, a sea of supporters carried him on their shoulders back into the building.

Mauricio Santoro, a political science professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, said that by not complying with the order on Friday da Silva "wanted to demonstrate strength and popularity, showing that he is a political leader capable of gathering a crowd in his support."

## Gaza buries journalist killed while covering mass protests

**GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)**—Hundreds attended the funeral of a well-known Palestinian journalist in Gaza on Saturday who was killed while covering mass protests along the Israeli border the previous day.

Yasser Murtaja died from a gunshot wound he sustained while filming Friday in an area engulfed in thick black smoke from protesters setting tires on fire. Israeli troops opened fire from across the border, killing at least nine Palestinians and wounding 491 others in the second mass border protest in eight days. The deaths brought to at least 31 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli fire since last week. The border area appeared calm Saturday.

Witnesses said Murtaja was over 100 meters (yards) from the border, wearing a flak jacket marked "press" and holding his camera when he was shot in an exposed area just below the arm pit.

The Israeli military has said it fired only at "instigators" involved in attacks on soldiers and was investigating Murtaja's death amid a very hectic environment.

"The IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) uses means such as warnings, riot dispersal means, and as a last resort firing

live rounds in a precise, measured way," it said Saturday. "The IDF does not intentionally target journalists. The circumstances in which journalists were allegedly hit by IDF fire are not familiar to the IDF, and are being looked into."

Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since a 2007 takeover and calls for Israel's destruction, has called for a series of protests until May 15, the anniversary of Israel's founding when Palestinians commemorate their mass uprooting during the 1948 war over Israel's creation.

The Islamic group hopes the mass protests can create pressure to break a border blockade enforced by Israel and Egypt since 2007, without having to succumb to demands that it disarm. The blockade has made it increasingly difficult for Hamas to govern. It has also devastated Gaza's economy, made it virtually impossible for people to enter and exit the territory, and left residents with just a few hours of electricity a day.

Israel argues that Hamas could have ended the suffering of Gaza's 2 million people by disarming and renouncing violence.

It says Hamas is exploiting the mass marches as a

cover for attacking the border fence, and has vowed to prevent a breach at all costs. The military said that on Friday protesters hurled several explosive devices and firebombs, using the thick plumes of smoke from burning tires as cover, and that several attempts to cross the fence were thwarted.

Colleagues said Murtaja was not affiliated with Hamas or any other militant group, and there were no Hamas symbols normally seen at the funerals for militants.

In an apparent sign of solidarity, Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh attended the funeral Saturday.

"The Return March is a battle of truth and awareness," Haniyeh said of the protests. "Yasser held his camera to direct the arrows of truth to convey the image of the besieged people."

At the funeral, Murtaja's body was draped in a Palestinian flag with his flak jacket reading "press" placed upon him as he was carried through the streets of Gaza. The drone he had used for shooting footage of Gaza hovered above to film his funeral. Dozens of his close friends and colleagues were sobbing after the coffin was taken out of the morgue.

# Health & Wellness



## From pet therapy to yoga, schools address kids' stress

MICHELLE HEALY  
USA TODAY

**A**s school counselor Jennifer VonLintel gears up for the start of the school year at B.F. Kitchen Elementary School, there are new students to enroll, files to update and schedules to plan—including the schedule for Copper, her registered therapy dog and a popular presence in the hallways of the Loveland, Colo., school.

Three days a week, the 3-year-old golden retriever's assignments can include mingling with kids during recess, being assigned to students who struggle with reading or math anxiety, and providing general companionship and support in the classroom, during counseling office visits, and during after-school programs. Any time a friendly, furry face can provide an extra measure of comfort and assurance, says VonLintel.

When there's a death in a family or a child receives bad news, "with the parents' permission, we'll introduce Copper to the situation," she says. "Kids find comfort in petting him, and sometimes the parents do, too."

Pet therapy is just one way that schools are attempting to dial down the level of stress and anxiety facing students today and help them prepare to better handle such situations. Among others:

■ Montpelier High School in Vermont is adding a daily 20-minute recess starting this school year and encourages students to get outside and play during the break.

■ Shakopee High, southwest of Minneapolis-Saint Paul, has a 25-minute flex period built into each student's daily schedule during which they are free to check in with teachers, counselors, coaches, go to the library or get started on homework.

■ Visitacion Valley Middle School in San Francisco, has a "Quiet Time" program, consisting of two 15-minute sessions a day in which students have the option to sit quietly and rest or practice Transcendental Meditation (TM), which is taught at the public school.

■ Both Belfast High and Camden Hills High schools in Maine have "wellness rooms" in which students, faculty and staff

can sign up for massage therapy, acupuncture, and other stress-relieving therapies, all donated by local practitioners.

In the past decade there's been "an increasing recognition of the connection between mental wellness, success in school and better life outcomes, so schools have started to implement more supports and services," says Kelly Vaillancourt, of the National Association of School Psychologists.

Whether a nagging sense of unease or an overwhelming feeling of pressure and anxiety, stress can interfere with all aspects of well-being, including sleep, emotions, focus, even how people eat, all of which are important to the ability to learn, says Susan Kaiser Greenland, author of *The Mindful Child*.

Greenland trains teachers, counselors, therapists and other adults working with kids and teens in using mindful awareness—"an enhanced ability to pay attention" through breathing activities and other strategies—to help kids "focus and calm (the) mind and body" when they're "over-scheduled, over-pressured and stressed."

Pedro Francisco, 15, says the targeted breathing techniques he learned almost two years ago through the Youth Empowerment Seminar (YES! for Schools) program at his Los Angeles middle school has had a lasting effect. "It still helps me now to keep myself together" instead of automatically talking back in class or getting angry, says Francisco, a sophomore at Animo Ralph Bunche Charter High School.

Run by the non-profit International Association for Human Values, the program has worked in 127 schools since 2005 teaching students stretching, exercise and breathing techniques, along with life skills in conflict resolution and human values with the goal of managing stress, regulating emotions, resolving conflicts and controlling impulsive behavior.

"Whatever environment kids are in, they need to (learn to) negotiate their own stress level, their own emotional well-being," says YES! co-director Elan Gepner.

A study conducted by UCLA researchers and published in July's *Journal of Adoles-*

cent Health found that students who participated in the four-week program felt less impulsive, while students who didn't participate showed no change.

Even in schools that don't have specialized stress-reduction programs, teaching students how to handle stress is increasingly a component of the health education curriculum, right along with substance abuse, nutrition and healthy relationships, says Christopher Pepper, a health education teacher at Balboa High School in San Francisco.

"I see health education class, for many of my students, as the only time in their lives, possibly, to have concentrated time to learn techniques to deal with some of the situations that will come up as they move into adulthood and help them prepare for the choices they'll make," says Pepper, who writes the Mr. Health Teacher blog.

Montpelier High's new recess program is another attempt at reminding students of the importance of stepping back and recharging in order to stay emotionally healthy, says school Principal Adam Bunting. "The research about the learning gains (associated with) activity and rest on the brain is too powerful to ignore," he adds.

Although the program is not mandatory, Bunting says that when classes start Aug. 28, he hopes students, as well as faculty and staff, will put down their books and pens during recess and get involved in some type of fun physical activity, from kickball to yoga.

Most Montpelier students welcome this addition to the schedule, which also comes with a switch from the traditional eight classes a day to a four-class block schedule, says Charlie Aldrich, 17, president of the Student Government Association. "It's exciting to have that period just for relaxing, going outside and playing," he says.

While Aldrich expects many students to take advantage of the recess when they can, there will be occasions when he thinks he and others will use the break to catch up on unfinished work or cram for a test.

"It's high school, and kids have a lot of work to do," he says.

## Quick tips for panic attacks

By BARTON GOLDSMITH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If you've ever had a panic attack or are struggling with anxiety, these tips will help you manage your symptoms and perhaps lessen your tension.

**1 Breathe.** Most people actually hold their breath when they get too anxious, which only makes you more nervous because it feels like you are smothering as well. So remember to breathe. It may be the oldest trick in the book, but it works.

**2 Slow down.** Panic will make you feel like you need to do something drastic. Be sure to look before you leap, and make sure the choices you are making will help.

**3 Don't drive.** If you are driving and feel an attack coming on, get off the road immediately. We used to go on relaxing Sunday drives when I was a kid. These days most drives are anything but relaxing, so just stay out of the car until you feel like yourself again. And if there is a real emergency, have someone else drive.

**4 Take your meds (with you).** If you are taking anti-anxiety medications, don't forget to keep them handy, so you know they are available if needed. Keeping a bottle with a few pills in your glove compartment can be a subconscious reminder that things are okay, and perhaps make your commute a little easier.

**5 Exercise.** Sometimes the best thing you can do is to put on your sneakers and go for a walk or a run. Whole body movement will do more to relax you than lifting weights, but whatever it takes to release that nervous energy, do it.

**6 Turn off the TV.** If watching the news makes you nervous, stop. The world will not come to an end without you knowing it, but if the news is making you nervous, you need to give yourself a break and watch cartoons for a week or so.

**7 Take a hot bath or a shower.** This can sometimes be an instant fix, but you should let yourself soak in the peace of the moment. Allow the warmth to calm you, and allow yourself to feel safe. The feeling of being clean is also anxiety reducing, so the whole process can diminish any panic.

**8 Take a nap.** It may seem counterintuitive when you have all that adrenaline running through you, but anxiety is exhausting. Giving yourself a chance to sleep, even for twenty minutes, can revive you and reduce your nervousness.

**9 Get some fresh air.** If you're staying inside by your own choice, at least open a window and let the breeze in. Being unable to breathe properly can cause panic, and sitting in a stuffy house can make that happen.

**10 Just let yourself be anxious.** If you know that you tend to get nervous sometimes, and you do your best to manage it, the next time you feel it in your body, remind yourself that this is what's happening and that you don't have to act on it. Tell yourself that you will be okay, and soon enough, you will indeed be feeling better.

Not all of these tips will work for everyone, but if just one of them can help you avoid a panic attack, it's worth keeping in your bag of tricks. Panic is no fun, and it's not mandatory.

*Dr. Barton Goldsmith, a psychotherapist in Westlake Village, Calif., is the author of "The Happy Couple: How to Make Happiness a Habit One Little Loving Thing at a Time." Follow his daily insights on Twitter at @BartonGoldsmith*

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## Life & Style

# Ingraham due back at Fox following tweet backlash, vacation

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Fox News Channel host Laura Ingraham is expected back at work on Monday following a backlash by advertisers upset over her tweet mocking a Parkland, Florida, school shooting survivor.

Her one-week vacation served as a cooling-off period. The number of companies saying they would not advertise on her show, at 19, according to a count by Media Matters for America, slowed to a trickle while she was away.

Ingraham also picked up a strong statement of support from her boss and backing from an unexpected source in liberal talk show host Bill Maher late on Friday.

Ingraham has apologized for a tweet in which she said 17-year-old high school student David Hogg whined about being rejected by some colleges. Hogg has said it's "time to love thy neighbor, not mudsling at children." Their spat became a symbol of a debate over how minors active in national gun safety talks

should be treated by political opponents. Another student, Emma Gonzalez, was falsely depicted in a doctored photo tearing up the Constitution.

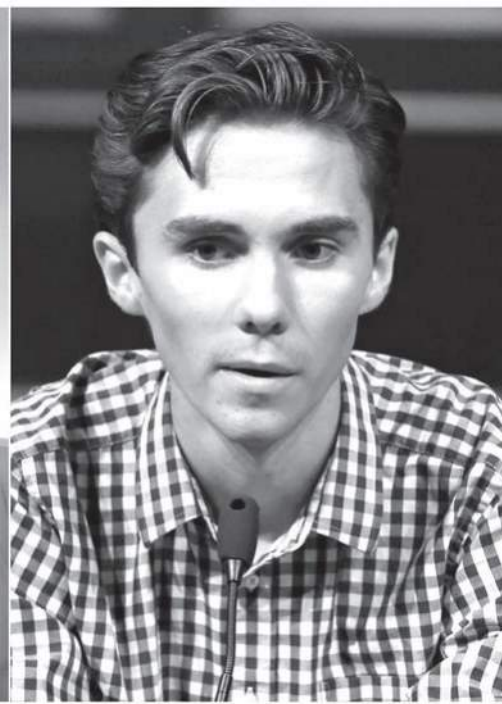
Hogg has urged companies to reconsider their relationships with Ingraham, a veteran pundit whose Fox show has aired only for a few months.

Ingraham also was criticized in February for saying Cleveland Cavaliers basketball star LeBron James should "shut up and dribble" instead of talking politics. She has said that was a reference to her 2003 book, "Shut Up & Sing," in which she criticized performers who venture into politics. James, a three-time NBA champion, has vowed to keep talking.

Vacations under fire can be an ominous sign. Another Fox prime-time host, Bill O'Reilly, went on vacation when advertisers abandoned him following reports about sexual misconduct complaints against him; he never returned. An advertiser boycott helped cost O'Reilly his job at near-lightning speed.



In this combination photo, Fox News personality Laura Ingraham speaks at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland on July 20, 2016, left, and David Hogg, a student survivor from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., speaks at a rally for common sense gun legislation in Livingston, N.J. on Feb. 25, 2018.



Former Fox personality Glenn Beck fell victim to an advertiser abandonment that was much more gradual.

However, attempts to

launch boycotts against Sean Hannity have largely failed, and he remains Fox's top-rated personality.

Earlier this week, Fox News

co-president Jack Abernethy said that "we cannot and will not allow voices to be cen-

sored by agenda-driven intimidation efforts" and promised Ingraham will be back.

Ingraham has not addressed the controversy on her show, which airs at 10 p.m. ET.

Meanwhile, HBO's Bill Maher said on his show that even though Ingraham has been "a deliberately terrible person, saying horrible things," the young gun safety advocates have to expect criticism if they are entering the public arena. He said they shouldn't target advertisers.

Hogg "complains about bullying," Maher said. "That's bullying. I have been the victim of a boycott of sponsors. I lost a job once. It is wrong."

One of Maher's guests, former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer, a Democrat who resigned in 2008 amid revelations he had sex with prostitutes, said the First Amendment gives people the right to organize boycotts. Maher called it an "end run" around the First Amendment.

## Fans dance as India court grants bail to Bollywood superstar

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—A court on Saturday granted bail to Bollywood superstar Salman Khan while he appeals his conviction on charges of poaching rare deer in a wildlife preserve two decades ago, a welcome development for thousands of fans who greeted their hero with songs and firecrackers.

Khan was convicted Thursday and sentenced to five years in prison and was immediately sent to jail. On Saturday, Judge Ravindra Kumar Joshi ordered him to sign a surety bond of 50,000 rupees (\$770) before he was set free from the jail in Jodhpur, a town in western India.

Hundreds of Khan's overjoyed fans danced outside the courtroom and chanted "We love you, Salman." His sisters, Alvira and Arpita, were present during the hearing.

Carrying big garlanded posters of Khan, the fans set off firecrackers and sang songs from his Bollywood movies as some of them chased his car heading to the airport.

The scenes were more intense outside his Mumbai residence in India's entertainment capital. Thousands of fans waited for hours and lit up the sky with fireworks as Khan reached his home.

Flanked by his father and other relatives, he came to the balcony of his apartment with folded hands and waved,



Bollywood star Salman Khan arrives at the airport after he was granted bail in Jodhpur, Rajasthan state, India, Saturday, April 7, 2018.

thanking them for their support. He retreated after signaling his fans to go home.

Four other Bollywood stars accused in the case - Saif Ali Khan, Sonali Bendre, Tabu and Neelam—were acquitted Thursday. They were in the vehicle that Salman Khan was believed to be driving during the hunt in 1998. Tabu and Neelam both use just one name.

Khan says he did not shoot the two blackbuck deer. The heavily muscled actor was acquitted in two related cases.

His attorney Mahesh Bora has challenged the conviction

and sentence, and Khan will remain free pending the outcome of the appeal.

Soli Sorabjee, a legal expert, said it was normal for bail to be granted in such a case, and didn't see Khan getting any special treatment from the court. "This has nothing to do with Khan's personality as an actor," he said.

The 52-year-old Khan has starred in more than 90 Hindi-language films. But he has also had a reputation as a Bollywood bad boy, known for his run-ins with the law—including a fatal car accident—and his troubled relationships

with women.

His biggest Hindi films include "Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam (I have fallen in love)," "Sultan (Ruler)," "Ek Tha Tiger (There was a tiger)" and "Tiger Zinda Hai (Tiger is alive)."

Khan spent a total of 18 days in prison in 1998, 2006 and 2007 in the poaching cases, but was freed on bail. He had been sentenced to prison terms of between one and five years in related cases before being acquitted by appeals courts for lack of evidence.

The blackbuck is an endangered species protected under the Indian Wildlife Act.

## Russell Crowe's \$104K violin high note of Sydney auction

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)**—A 128-year-old Italian violin that Russell Crowe learned to play in a few months before he starred in the 19th century war drama "Master and Commander" stole the show among movie memorabilia on offer at the Oscar-winning actor's auction on Saturday.

The rare instrument by Leonardo Bislach sold for 135,000 Australian dollars (\$104,000), the highest price for movie-related offerings among 227 lots up for sale in Sydney as part of the Australia-based New Zealander's divorce settlement.

More surprisingly, a costume that Crowe wore in the same 2003 movie wasn't far behind, raking in AU\$115,000.

While the violin was close to the top of Sotheby Australia's valuation, the winning bid for character Captain Jack Aubrey's dress uniform exceeded the auctioneer's hopes by AU\$80,000.

The violin's price was only exceeded by a painting from Crowe's extensive collection by Australian artist Brett Whiteley, "Moreton Bay Fig and Palms," which sold for AU\$190,000.

The auction, titled "The Art of Divorce," took place on the actor's 54th birthday and the anniversary of his wedding to singer Danielle Spencer in 2003.

A cheerful Crowe made an appearance after Sydney

actress-singer Alisa Nasteski sang Happy Birthday and the crowd of bidders and spectators—some in formal wear, others wearing sports team-colored beanies—gave him three cheers.

"G'day folks, how're you doing?" Crowe said to the crowd. "Are you having a little bit of fun? It's exciting, isn't it? So it's been a lot of fun putting it together for you."

Immediately afterward, the violin—which Crowe described as "a lot very dear to my heart"—became the 31st item to go under the hammer.

Before the auction, Sotheby's predicted the eclectic offerings, covering movies, guitars, art, watches, sporting memorabilia and Crowe's jewelry gifts to Spencer, would bring between AU\$2.6 million and AU\$3.7 million.

Crowe tweeted after the five-hour auction that he had earned AU\$3.7 million, with potential sales worth AU\$350,000 still under negotiation.

"A bunch of stuff I didn't really want to sell coming home ... not a bad hourly rate for a 5 hour shift," he tweeted.

Bidders' interest had been expected to focus on the violin and paraphernalia from "Gladiator," the 2000 blockbuster that earned Crowe his Academy Award for Best Actor. Demand for movie memorabilia often overwhelmed expectations.

# Hopper Penn, girlfriend released from Nebraska jail

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—Actor and model Hopper Penn has been released from jail after he and actress Uma Von Wittkamp were arrested on drug charges earlier this week in Nebraska.

Here are some facts about the couple and their arrest:

## A FAMOUS FAMILY

Penn, 24, is the son of Sean Penn, the Academy Award-winning actor, filmmaker and political activist known for his roles in "Fast Times at Ridge-mont High," "Mystic River" and "Milk." His mother is Robin Wright, an actress and director known for her work in the Netflix drama "House of Cards" and movies including "Wonder Woman" and "The

Princess Bride."

Named after Dennis Hopper and Jack Nicholson, Hopper Jack Penn was born in Los Angeles but was largely raised in Ross, a small, exclusive town outside of San Francisco. He and his mother moved back to Los Angeles around the time Wright filed for divorce in 2009.

He's also the nephew of singer-songwriter Michael Penn and the late actor Chris Penn. His sister, Dylan Frances, is a model and actress.

Hopper Penn has gained some fame of his own. He acted in the film "War Machine" with Brad Pitt, and models eyewear for Fendi, an Italian luxury fashion house. But he has shied from the label "ac-

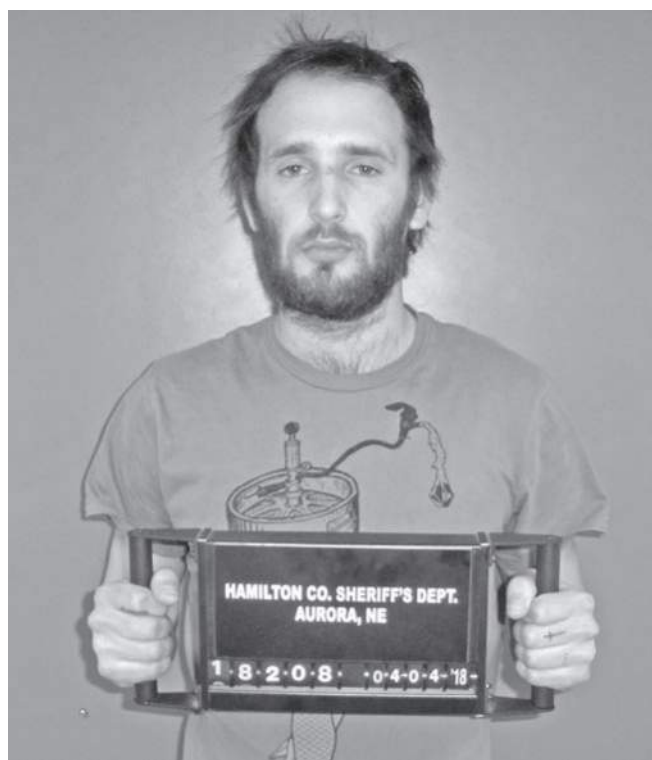
tor," noting his regular job at a Los Angeles pizza restaurant.

Von Wittkamp is less well-known, but played a role in the 2015 film short "Endings, Inc."

## STRUGGLES WITH ADDICTION

Hopper Penn told the Evening Standard last year that he fell in with a "bad crowd" during his parents' divorce, which was finalized in 2010. His spiral apparently began a month after he moved to Los Angeles, when he was badly injured in a skateboarding accident and had to undergo surgery for bleeding on the brain.

Penn has since admitted to using a variety of drugs, including methamphetamine, but said he sought treatment.



AP  
This booking photo released by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Dept. shows Hopper Penn, the son of Sean Penn and Robin Wright, after he was arrested in Nebraska.

## THE ARREST

Hopper Penn was arrested Wednesday afternoon with Von Wittkamp, his 26-year-old girlfriend, after a Nebraska State Patrol trooper stopped them on westbound Interstate 80 for allegedly failing to signal. A Hamilton County sheriff's dispatcher said Penn and Von Wittkamp were released Thursday after posting \$25,000 bond apiece.

Authorities said the trooper detected "drug activity" in the 1992 Volvo and searched the car. Inside, they said they found 14 grams of marijuana, four amphetamine pills and 3 grams of psilocybin, a psychedelic drug commonly known as mushrooms.

"I went to rehab because I woke up in (the) hospital and my dad said, 'Rehab? Or bus bench?'" he said in the Evening Standard interview. "I

was like, 'I'll take the bed.'"

A representative for the agency that represents Hopper Penn did not have any immediate comment.

## Star Wars spinoff 'Solo' to premiere at Cannes Film Festival

NEW YORK (AP)—"Solo: A Star Wars Story" will premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, bringing a galaxy far away to the world's most prestigious film festival.

The French festival announced Friday that the "Star Wars" spinoff will premiere

out of competition at this year's festival shortly before opening in French theaters on May 23. "Solo" opens in U.S. theaters on May 25.

This isn't the first time "Star Wars" has come to Cannes. "Star Wars: Attack of the Clones" and 2005's "Star

Wars: Revenge of the Sith" both played at the French Riviera festival.

Cannes earlier this week announced that Asghar Farhadi's "Everybody Knows," starring Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz, will be the opening-night film.

## Arnold Schwarzenegger out of hospital after heart procedure

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Arnold Schwarzenegger left a Los Angeles hospital Friday after a heart procedure, his spokesman said.

The spokesman, Daniel Ketchell, said in an email that the 70-year-old "Terminator" actor and former California governor is "home and doing incredibly well."

Schwarzenegger underwent a scheduled procedure March 29. A pulmonic valve originally installed in 1997 for a congenital heart defect had to be replaced. He's



AP  
In this Dec. 12, 2017 file photo, Arnold Schwarzenegger waves as he arrives at the Elysee Palace prior to a meeting on climate change in Paris.

been tweeting from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for several days, including this one on Monday:

"It's true: I'm back! I went to sleep expecting to wake up with a small incision and woke up with a big one—but guess what? I woke up, and that's something to be thankful for."

## Hannity vows to bash Kimmel until he apologizes to 1st lady

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel host Sean Hannity is vowing to continue his attacks on ABC late-night comic Jimmy Kimmel until Kimmel apologizes for a segment in which he joked about first lady Melania Trump's accent.

The dispute between the television personalities is unusually vitriolic, with Hannity calling Kimmel a "sick, twisted, creepy, perverted weirdo" during his Fox show on Friday. Kimmel, who had no show of his own on Friday, returned fire via Twitter.

ABC officials had no immediate response to a request for comment on Saturday.

With late-night comedy almost uniformly opposed to



AP  
In this March 18, 2016 file photo, Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity speaks during a campaign rally for Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, in Phoenix.

President Donald Trump and political talk dominated by conservatives, Kimmel and Hannity were playing to their audiences. The root of this flare-up was a Kimmel segment on his Monday show in which he played a film clip of Melania Trump, who was born in Slovenia, reading to children at a White House Easter celebration and mocked her accent.

"Dees and dat," Kimmel repeated, with a laugh.

Kimmel turned to his show sidekick, Guillermo Rodriguez, and said, "you could be first lady of the United States."

That angered Hannity, cable television's most fervent supporter of the Republican president.

## Girl is tempted to chooses a college close to home

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is graduating from high school and will be starting college. It was always her plan to go to a school away from our small town, and I supported that decision. However, six months ago she started dating her first real boyfriend.

His parents have offered to pay all expenses if the two of them live in an apartment and go to school at a college nearby. Financially, this would be very helpful for my daughter, but I'm worried that moving in with a boy at such a young age would be a mistake, and she wouldn't get the full college experience.

Her boyfriend is wonderful, and she is very happy in the relationship. She has a scholarship for free room and board at a college three hours away. I can tell she's very conflicted. What do you think I should encourage her to do?

STUDENT'S MOM IN MISSOURI

DEAR STUDENT'S MOM: Your concerns are valid. The boyfriend's parents made a generous offer, but although your daughter may be crazy about their son, she should not accept it.

She and this young man are starting new chapters in their lives. They will be meeting people and forming all kinds of new relationships. Forgive me for seeming negative, but what if the romance sours? Will his parents still be willing to pay for room, board and your daughter's education at the same college?

Your daughter has earned her scholarship. Three hours' distance isn't insurmountable. They can still see each other if they wish. But the separation will allow them more time to concentrate on their studies as well as enjoy the full college experience.

DEAR ABBY: We seem to be living in a time of instant gratification. I'm talking about cellphones. People think they MUST answer their cellphone no matter what. It's ridiculous.

When I call someone and they answer, I start talking only to be interrupted with something like, "I'm involved in something right now. Call you back!" Once, an employer told me she was in the bathtub.

My question is, why are these people answering in the first place? If you can't talk, let it go to voicemail. Unless you think I'm calling to give you money—a LOT of money—the conversation can probably wait 10 minutes. What do you think?

HOLDING THE PHONE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HOLDING THE PHONE: I agree. You'll get no argument from me.

DEAR ABBY: My parents smoke weed and do other drugs, and I have no idea what to do. They scream and yell at us daily. There are four of us. I don't know if we should turn them in so we can live in a better environment or just accept it. I need your

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



opinion so I do what is right.

ANONYMOUS GIRL IN INDIANA

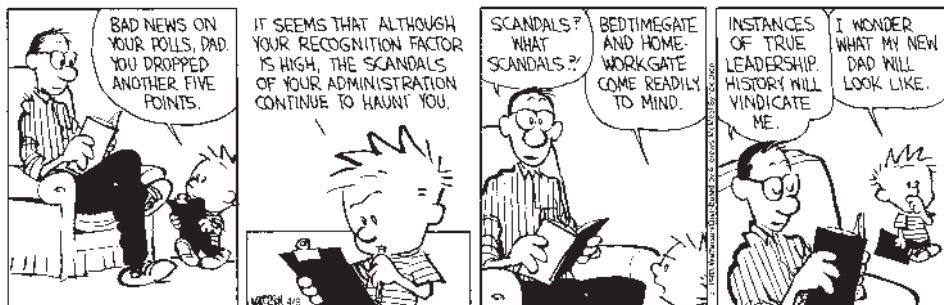
DEAR ANONYMOUS GIRL: No child should be subjected to this. It's unhealthy for you and your siblings to be living with drug-addicted adults who are unable to control their emotions. If there are relatives who can take you in—grandparents, aunts, uncles—talk to them about it. However, if that's not possible, tell a teacher or school counselor what's happening at home or call child protective services yourself.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



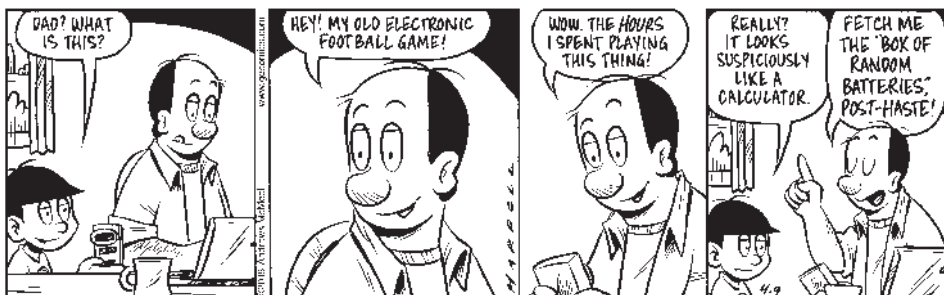
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



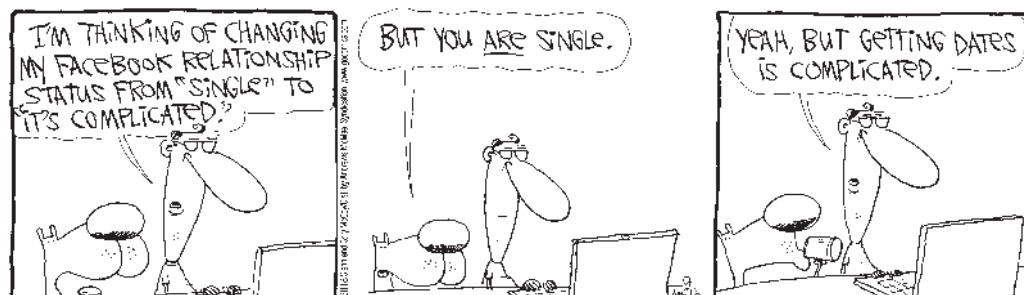
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Actor  
4 Wimbledon  
9 Corn  
12 In the  
13 Argue  
14 Lab  
15 Academic  
17 Trail the  
18 — de  
19 "The  
21 Spur on  
24 Sicilian  
25 Dove's  
26 Com-  
28 Old  
31 Perry's  
33 Highland  
35 Admin.

**DOWN**

36 Leafy  
38 Tic-  
40 Stately  
41 Egyptian  
43 Greek  
45 Most  
48 "— was  
49 Fellow  
54 Old  
55 Big name  
56 Web  
57 Corral

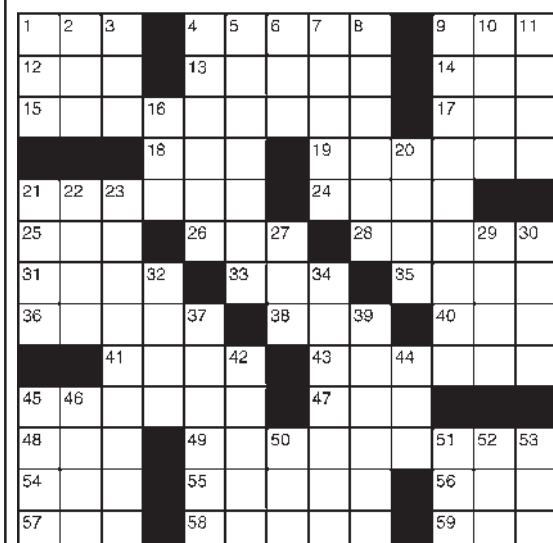
**DOWN**

1 Apple  
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3 Texter's  
4 Hulled  
5 Ask for  
6 — Dhabi  
7 Hotel  
8 Kicks off  
9 Imploded  
10 Cameo  
11 Satchels

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

SAW T S A B A L S A  
T I O A I L O N I O N  
R O O B E G I N N I N G  
A L L S N A R E  
W I F I N E O S A G A  
N R A N A P K I N  
I M A G E M E A L Y  
K A B O O M N Y C  
E A S T A G O K O N A  
I N C E P T I O N E A T  
I I L L E T R Y H C A  
O A S I S S F X A P R

Last Friday's Answer 04-09



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Elle Fanning, 20; Kristen Stewart, 28; Leighton Meester, 32; Dennis Quaid, 64.

**Happy Birthday:** Aim for greater stability in your life. Refuse to let anyone limit what you can do. Focus on getting along with your peers and diplomatically maneuvering into a position that will help you advance. Choose to befriend or form relationships with people you know won't coax you into something impractical or who don't exhibit bad habits. Make security and safety your priorities. Your numbers are 6, 15, 21, 26, 34, 37, 49.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Observe what's going on around you. Remain silent unless you see an opportunity to make a difference. Get your work done and keep moving forward at your own pace. Set an example and live up to your promises. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** An emotional mishap can be prevented if you are cautious when participating in physical activities or while traveling. Use diplomacy and charm when dealing with your boss or anyone in charge of a situation you encounter. Keep the peace. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't be disillusioned by what others do or say. Watch and respond with honesty and precision. Keeping situations clear of any misconception will help you avoid being caught in someone else's melodrama. Offer concise solutions and encouragement, but don't take over. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Keep working until you feel satisfied with what you've accomplished. If you quit prema-

ture, you'll stress over what you have left unfinished. It's OK to do things differently. Be creative and passionate about what you do. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Take an intellectual approach to your responsibilities. Think of how best to do something without risking unnecessary injury or discord due to a sensitive issue. Be a guide for others, not a dictator, and you will overcome obstacles. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Gravitate toward the people, places and pastimes that bring you joy and that contribute to your life. Personal and physical changes will turn out favorably if you use discipline and stamina to see matters through to the end. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Let your intuitive intelligence guide you through situations that can obstruct your household or relationship with someone close to you. Dealing with other people's affairs will be informative and reflective of the past but time-consuming. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Put more thought into how you handle emotional unrest. An aggressive approach will fall flat when looking for a solution. Taking more time to understand what's important to all parties involved will allow you to come up with a custom-made solution. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Consider how you earn your living and what you can do to bring in more cash or reduce your overhead so you can spend more time enjoying life. An intelligent approach to getting the most out of life will ease stress. ★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Listen to your inner voice, not what someone else is telling you to do. Back away from demanding people or those unwilling to compromise. Stick close to home, and find a quiet space to reflect and rebuild your plans. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Emotions can cause you to do things you shouldn't. Temptation will lead to excessive behavior or getting involved with someone or something that isn't in your best interest. Back away from anyone boasting bad habits or asking for too much from you. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Refuse to give in to being a follower when you have your own ideas and desires to fulfill. Explore new possibilities, and look for ways to use your skills and ideas to start something you can call your own. ★★

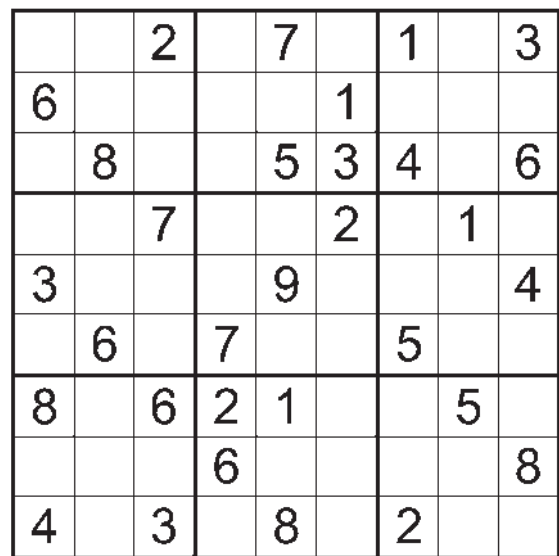
**Birthday Baby:** You are serious, helpful and curious. You are determined and systematic.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

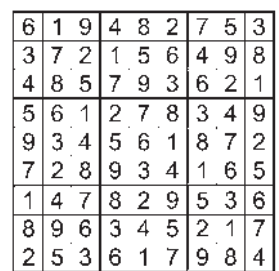


Difficulty Level ★

4/99

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DICK ENBERG (1935-2017)

Solution: 8 letters

M I C H I G A N D R E W B A I  
B A R B A R A L E X A N D E R  
N O S R A N G E L S S M A D E  
G O O T E L O C I N P P S C J  
B A S K E T B A L L P O B D U  
Y O M A T R E S S A Y S R E N  
A L X E E S S P K E I I K T I  
L R I I S S A A Y N C R A F P  
P E E M N B M M N H O Y L O E  
Y A L F E G H E A W L S E O R  
B B N F I C T R T O I H G T E  
Y B L S F N D E R N N O E B E  
A E I N R A N L N A P W N A R  
L H C A O C B E L L E S D L A  
P A D R E S D A J S T A E L C

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4/9

Alan, Alexander, Andrew, Angels, Arnie, Baffle, Barbara, Basketball, Belle, Book, Boxing, Career, CBS, Cleats, Coach, Dennis, Emily, ESPN, Essays, Football, Games, Jennifer, Jeri, Juniper, Kappa, Legend, Made, Masters, Michigan, MLB, NBA, Network, Nicole, Oh My, Padres, Peter, Phi Sigma, Play by Play, Rams, Richard, Season, Show, Sport, Taylor, Team, Ted, Tennis

Last Friday's Answer: Firecracker

To purchase WONDERWORD books.

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**NMHC JVA 2018-004**

OPENING DATE: March 27, 2018      CLOSING DATE: April 12, 2018

Salary: PL 30-04: \$26,131.39 to PL 30-08: \$31,757.68 P/A  
(Commensurate with education and experience)

**“HOUSING PRESERVATION TECHNICIAN I”**  
(In-House Promotion Only)

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualifications. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.


It is the policy of the NMHC that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670)234-9447/7689 or by email to [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**  
Corporate Director



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**RFP18-JUDICIARY-02**

SUBMISSION DATE: April 25, 2018      TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT SERVICES RE: OPINION AND REVIEW OF FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY REPORT”**

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO**  
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ **JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ**  
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

**BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC**  
**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**(01) ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (Full-time)**

**Job Purpose:**  
Maximizes return on financial assets by establishing financial policies, procedures, controls, and reporting systems.

**Duties:**

- Guides financial decisions by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing policies and procedures.
- Protects assets by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing internal controls.
- Monitors and confirms financial condition by conducting audits; providing information to external auditors.
- Prepares budgets by establishing schedules; collecting, analyzing, and consolidating financial data; recommending plans.
- Achieves budget objectives by scheduling expenditures; analyzing variances; initiating corrective actions.
- Provides status of financial condition by collecting, interpreting, and reporting financial data.
- Prepares special reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing information and trends.
- Complies with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation; anticipating future legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing financial reports; advising management on needed actions.
- Completes operational requirements by scheduling and assigning employees; following up on work results.
- Maintains financial staff by recruiting, selecting, orienting, and training employees.
- Maintains professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications; establishing personal networks; participating in professional societies.
- Protects operations by keeping financial information and plans confidential.
- Prepares income taxes for all entities.
- Prepares monthly financial statements.
- Reviews work of the accounting staff.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

**Skills/Qualifications:**

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- CPA or equivalent strongly preferred.
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- Strong analytical and communication skills.
- Knowledge of financial reporting systems preferably Quickbooks.
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# Red Sox beat Rays for 7th straight victory

**BOSTON** (AP)—Xander Bogaerts hit the first grand slam for Boston since the end of the 2016 season and drove in a career-best six runs to carry the Red Sox to a 10-3 win over the Tampa Bay Rays on Saturday for their seventh straight victory.

J.D. Martinez and Rafael Devers homered for Boston, and Rick Porcello (2-0) pitched into the eighth inning.

This is just the second time in franchise history that the Red Sox have lost their season opener and won the next seven. The other came in 1904 when Boston captured the AL pennant.

The Rays have lost seven straight and are off to their worst start ever after rallying for a win at home over the Red Sox on opening day.

Bogaerts hit a two-run double in Boston's four-run first. In the second, his second career slam completely left Fenway Park over the Green Monster and came after Jake Faria (0-1) walked the bases full.

"We've been on and off. We know we're a good offensive team," new manager Alex Cora said.

"We can do that often. We feel we have a good offensive team. It's just a matter of time," he said.

## Phillies 20, Marlins 1

In Philadelphia, Maikel Franco and Aaron Altherr each hit a grand slam and Carlos Santana and Jorge Alfaro also went deep as Philadelphia routed Miami.

Vince Velasquez (1-1) allowed one run and four hits, striking out six in six innings.

Franco finished with six RBI after just missing another homer when his two-run dou-



ble hit high off the left-center field wall. He has driven in 10 runs in the past two games.

Santana's shot to deep right field was his 1,000th career hit.

## Mets 3, Nationals 2

In Washington, Asdrubal Cabrera hit an RBI double and scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, helping the Mets beat the Nationals for their fourth straight win despite Bryce Harper's fifth homer.

Dave Martinez was ejected for the first time as a manager as the NL East champions lost their fourth consecutive game to fall to 4-4. Washington's

rookie skipper put on quite an old-school show, too, throwing his cap and kicking at the dirt near home plate when he was tossed by umpire Marty Foster in the third.

## Cardinals 5, Diamondbacks 3

In St. Louis, in the coldest home start in Cardinals history, Jose Martinez homered and drove in four runs as St. Louis stopped Arizona's four-game winning streak.

It was 37 degrees at game time with a wind chill of 29. The previous recorded low in St. Louis was 38 degrees for the first pitch on April 16,

1961, against Cincinnati.

Michael Wacha (1-1) out-pitched Zack Greinke (1-1) despite matching a career high with five walks in the chilly weather.

## Cubs 5, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Ian Happ hit a tiebreaking two-run single during Chicago's four-run ninth.

Happ struck out three more times, running his team-high total to a whopping 17 in seven games, before coming with a clutch swing in his final at-bat. With one out and the bases loaded, he dumped a 0-1 pitch from Jacob Barnes into

left-center to give the Cubs a 4-2 lead.

## Yankees 8, Orioles 3

In New York, Sonny Gray pitched six effective innings and rookie Miguel Andujar hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly, leading the Yankees to the win.

New York broke a 3-all tie in the sixth on Andujar's sacrifice fly, scoring Didi Gregorius with his first RBI of the season.

## Royals 1, Indians 0

In Cleveland, Lucas Duda homered off Trevor Bauer for the game's only run, and Ian

Boston Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts and Tampa Bay Rays' Denard Span look down to first to watch after Bogaerts completed a double play during the eighth inning of Boston's 10-3 win in a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Kennedy pitched six shutout innings for the Royals.

Duda's shot in the seventh off Bauer (0-1) was one of only three hits by Kansas City and a rare highlight as the teams survived nine innings with the temperature hovering around freezing.

## Mariners 11, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, playing in a Twins-record low of 27 degrees, the Mariners got homers from Kyle Seager and Guillermo Heredia in a run-away victory.

The first-pitch temperature at Target Field beat the Minnesota mark of 31 degrees for a game in 2014. Coors Field in Denver holds the major league low with a 23-degree day in April 2013 when Atlanta visited the Rockies.

## Tigers 6, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Miguel Cabrera drove in three runs and Michael Fulmer pitched shut-out ball into the sixth inning, leading Detroit to a chilly road win.

Cabrera hit a two-run single in the third and an RBI groundout in the fifth after leaving Thursday's game because of left hip flexor tightness. Dixon Machado had two hits and chased Lucas Giolito (0-1) with a two-run double in the sixth that made it 5-0, sending the Tigers to their second straight win after a 1-4 start.

**AUGUSTA, Ga.** (AP)—Rory McIlroy was laughing and bouncing and swaggering all the way around Augusta National.

After his final stroke on a soggy Saturday, he delivered an emphatic pump of the fist.

No wonder he's so excited.

This is McIlroy's best chance yet to join one of golf's most exclusive clubs.

Taking advantage of several fortuitous bounces, McIlroy shot a 7-under 65 Saturday to match his lowest score ever at the Masters, pushing him within three shots of the lead and into the final group with Patrick Reed.

There are plenty of days when a golfer feels like the breaks go against him.

This wasn't one of those days for McIlroy.

He chipped one in from 23 yards away for an eagle at the par-5 eighth hole. He saved

## McIlroy ready to seize shot at career Grand Slam

par at the 13th after knocking his ball into a thick patch of pink azaleas. He watched an errant tee shot at the final hole ricochet back into the fairway, setting up a birdie that could have easily been a bogey.

"I rode my luck a little bit out there today," McIlroy conceded. "Hopefully I don't have to rely on it too much tomorrow."

This is the fourth straight year that he's arrived at Augusta National looking to complete the career Grand Slam—a feat accomplished by only five of the game's greatest players.

The last three times, he was simply too far back to make a serious run at the green jacket on Sunday.

This time, it's right with-

in his grasp, though he'll have to chase down a scoring-hot player who's turned in three straight rounds in the 60s.

"I feel like all the pressure is on him," the 28-year-old McIlroy said of Reed, who's never won a major title. "He's got that to deal with and sleep on tonight. I feel like I can go out there and play like I've got nothing to lose."

Of course, this isn't the first time McIlroy has put himself in position to win the Masters. Back in 2011, before he had any major titles on his resume, he led after each of the first three rounds, went to the final day with a four-stroke lead and was still ahead as he made the turn. He totally fell



part after that, playing the last nine holes at 7 over to finish with an 80.

He's played well since then at Augusta, including top-10 finishes each of the last four years.

But this is his clearest path to victory since that 2011 debacle.

"I've been waiting for this chance," McIlroy said. "I always have said that 2011 was a huge turning point in my career. It was the day that I realized I wasn't ready to win major championships, and I needed to reflect on that and realize what I needed to do differently. But now I am ready."

This certainly feels different than seven years ago.

"Obviously, I'm not in the lead like I was going into that day, so I probably don't have as much pressure," he said. "I don't have to protect anything. I can go out and sort of freewheel like I did today, which is a great position to be in. I wish I was a little closer to the lead or leading, but I'm in the final group and I've shot 65 on moving day at the Masters. It's all I can ask for."

The chip-in eagle sent up a roar that carried across the course. But McIlroy's most fortuitous hole was No. 13, the dogleg of a par-five that finishes off Amen Corner.

With the off-and-on rain really coming down, McIlroy yanked his second shot into the azaleas lining the left side of the green, the club flying out of his hand after the

follow-through. As he walked toward the last place he saw his ball, he wasn't even sure he'd be able to find it.

Then, McIlroy got an impromptu lesson in horticulture.

"It was a sea of pink," he said. "But azaleas are actually pretty thin down below. They look pretty thick on top, but down below they are actually not too bad. I could take a stance and just sort of pick the club straight up and get it back down on top of it and just trundle it out through the pine straw and back on to the grass."

McIlroy advanced his ball to the edge of the green with his third shot, and then knocked it up within 4 feet of the cup before rolling in the par-saving putt. He birdied two of the last four holes to match Fowler and Rahm for the best 18-hole score of the tournament.

# Thunder end Rockets' 20-game home win streak



**HOUSTON** (AP)—The Oklahoma City Thunder adopted a simple mantra for Saturday's game against the Houston Rockets with their playoff fate still up in the air. "We just better not lose,"

Paul George said.

For one night at least, it worked.

George and Russell Westbrook each scored 24 points, and Oklahoma City snapped Houston's 20-game home winning streak with a 108-102 victory.

The Thunder were down one with about seven minutes left before scoring the next 11 points.

Oklahoma City (46-34) is tied with San Antonio and New Orleans for fifth in the loaded Western Conference, a half-game behind idle Utah. The Thunder can clinch a playoff spot with a victory at Miami on Monday.

"This game was important but the Monday game is just as important as this game because if we don't take care of business Monday then this game doesn't really mean anything," said Carmelo Anthony, who had 22 points.

The Thunder took two of three in the season series against the NBA-best Rockets.

James Harden had 26 points for Houston, and Chris Paul added 17.

"I thought we tasted the playoff atmosphere because these guys are fighting for their lives and we're not," Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said. "It's human nature, there's no reward in winning."

Paul hit a step-back jumper and Gerald Green scored to give the Rockets a 92-91 lead with 7:09 left.

## Nuggets 134, Clippers 115

In Los Angeles, Will Barton scored 31 points, Nikola Jokic had 23 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists, and Denver earned its fifth consecutive victory.

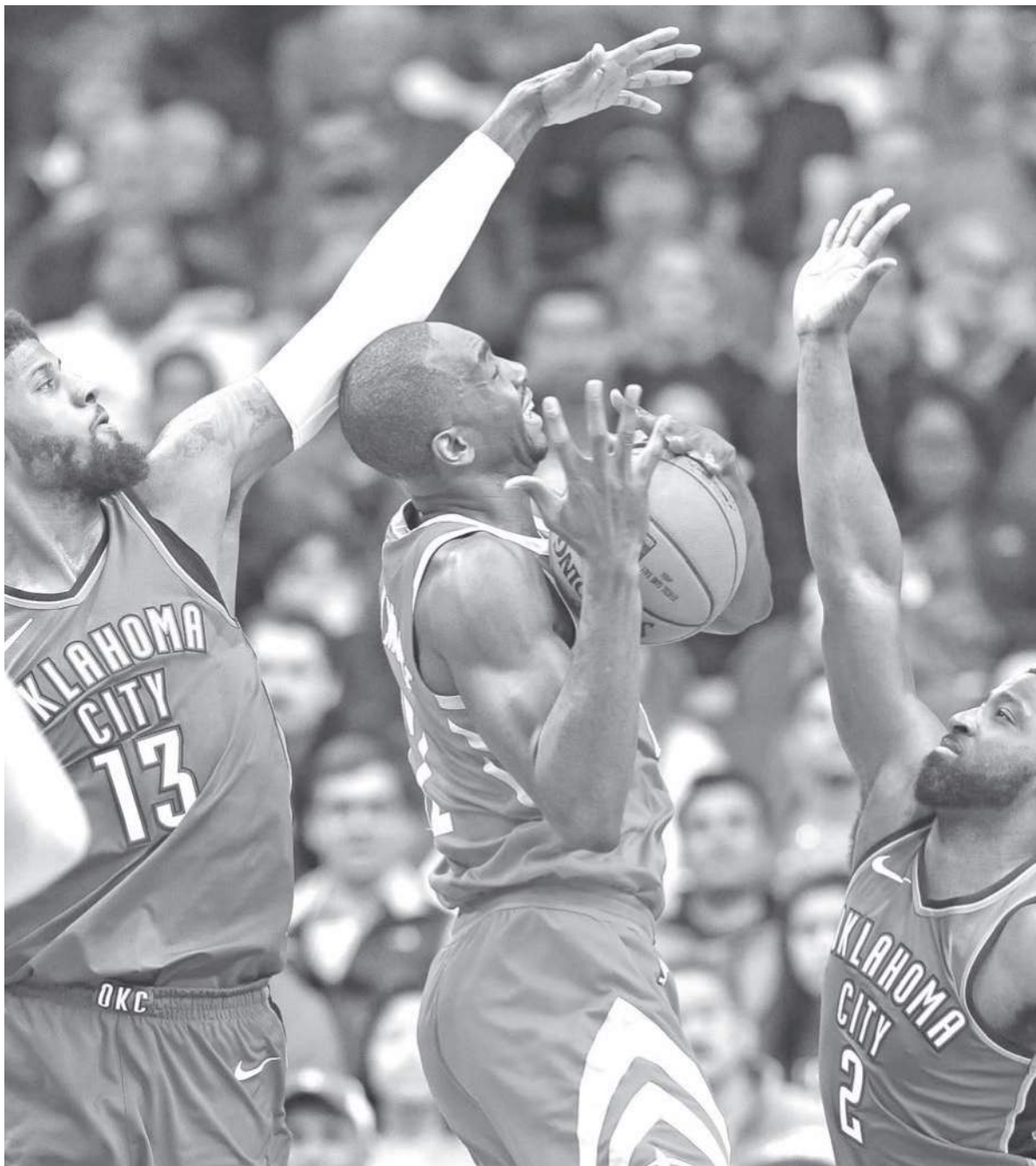
Denver (45-35) pulled into a tie with Minnesota for eighth in the Western Conference with two games to play. The Nuggets visit the Timberwolves for their season finale on Wednesday night.

Lou Williams scored 24 points for the Clippers (42-38), who were eliminated from playoff contention. DeAndre Jordan had 16 points and 17 rebounds.

## Pelicans 126, Warriors 120

In Oakland, Anthony Davis had 34 points, 12 rebounds and four blocked shots, and New Orleans snapped a 10-game losing streak to Golden State.

The Pelicans beat the Warriors for



Houston Rockets forward Luc Mbah a Moute (12) bobbles his shot between Oklahoma City Thunder forward Paul George (13) and guard Raymond Felton (2) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, April 7, 2018, in Houston.

the first time since April 7, 2015, in New Orleans, and at Oracle Arena for the first time since April 24, 2012.

Golden State star Kevin Durant scored 19 of his 41 points in the third quarter. Durant also finished with 10 rebounds and five assists.

## Spurs 116, Trail Blazers 105

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 28 points to help San Antonio stop a two-game losing streak.

The Spurs (46-34) are tied with Oklahoma City and New Orleans for fifth in the Western Conference, a half-game back of idle Utah.

San Antonio can clinch a playoff spot with a victory over visiting Sacramento on Monday.

Portland (48-32) dropped its third consecutive game and missed out on an opportunity to clinch home-court advantage in the first round. Damian Lillard had 33 points for the Trail Blazers, and Evan Turner finished with 18.

## Bucks 115, Knicks 102

In New York, Eric Bledsoe had 22 points and 10 assists, and Milwaukee moved into a tie for sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Khris Middleton also scored 22 points for the Bucks, who joined Miami with a 43-37 record. The Heat were blown out by the Knicks at Madison Square Garden a night earlier but the Bucks avoided the same fate despite playing without All-Star Giannis Antetokounmpo because of a sore right ankle.

Jabari Parker made his second start of the season in Antetokounmpo's place and finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds.

## Nets 124, Bulls 96

In Chicago, Quincy Acy scored 21 points, and Brooklyn set a franchise record by making 24 3-pointers.

The Nets finished one 3-pointer shy of the NBA record set last season by Cleveland. Acy made six 3s, and Allen Crabbe hit 5 of 13 from deep on his way to 20 points.

Brooklyn got its fourth road win in its last five games.

Sean Kilpatrick led Chicago with 20 points, and Bobby Portis had 18 points and eight rebounds.

## Top 2 seeds set in East and West; everything else TBD

The top two seeds are locked up: Toronto is No. 1 going into the Eastern Conference playoffs for the first time in franchise history, and Boston will open the playoffs as the No. 2 seed.

Everything else is unclear.

Philadelphia (49-30) now leads in the race for the No. 3 spot, passing Cleveland (49-31) by beating the Cavaliers 132-130 on Friday night. The 76ers, who haven't been a top-three seed in the East since their run to the NBA Finals in 2001, would finish third if they end the season with wins against Dallas, Atlanta and Milwaukee.

The Cavaliers have two games left, both against New York. So if Philly slips even once, Cleveland

could return to No. 3 by sweeping the Knicks.

Indiana (47-33) still has a chance at No. 3; to get there, the Pacers have to win out and have both the Cavaliers and 76ers lose out. That seems unlikely, and Indiana is probably heading for the No. 5 spot.

Miami, even after a bad loss in New York, controls its fate in the race for No. 6. Milwaukee is No. 7 for now, and Washington—a loser of four straight, including a head-scratcher against Atlanta on Friday—has slipped to No. 8.

Meanwhile, five days left, five spots left to clinch, and six seeds left to decide.

A frantic finish is coming to the West.

Portland controls the race for the No. 3 seed, and Utah knows that if it wins out the worst it can finish is No. 4—which is astounding, considering it got off to a 19-28 start and was 10+ games out of the fourth spot.

New Orleans (45-34) beat Phoenix to jump two spots to No. 5, and Minnesota (45-35) topped the Los Angeles Lakers to remain a half-game ahead of Denver for No. 8. Those two results mean four teams have exactly 45 wins going into Saturday, with Denver currently at 44 wins and the Los Angeles Clippers still able to get to 45 if they win out.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—LeBron James is putting himself in position to play in a fourth Olympics, and Kevin Durant and Chris Paul a third.

The NBA stars were among the headline names on the list of 35 players chosen Friday for USA Basketball's national team pool of players for 2018-20.

Stephen Curry, Russell Westbrook, James Harden, Kyrie Irving and Anthony Davis also were on the list of players the Americans can choose from if they qualify for the 2019 Basketball World Cup and 2020 Olympics.

The remainder of the list: Golden State's Klay Thompson and Dray-

## James, Durant in 35-player US Olympic team pool

mond Green; Toronto's DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry; Washington's John Wall and Bradley Beal; Portland's Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum; the Clippers' DeAndre Jordan and Tobias Harris; Detroit's Blake Griffin and Andre Drummond; Indiana's Victor Oladipo and Myles Turner; Cleveland's Kevin Love; Minnesota's Jimmy Butler; New Orleans' DeMarcus Cousins; San Antonio's Kawhi Leonard; Oklahoma City's Paul George; Houston's Eric Gordon; Boston's Gordon Hayward;

the Lakers' Isaiah Thomas; Charlotte's Kemba Walker; Dallas Harrison Barnes; Memphis' Mike Conley Jr.; Milwaukee's Khris Middleton; and Phoenix's Devin Booker.

The players are expected to attend a minicamp in Las Vegas from July 25-27, when U.S. coach Gregg Popovich will take over the team for the first time.

"It's quite an idea, or thought, when you think about being on the court with all these players," Popovich said. "That's quite a brotherhood.



here's a lot of talent there, these guys have friendships, they enjoy getting together, the culture's been established with USA Basketball and everything that they've done. So to see that in action and to see all these guys come together in Vegas this summer is going to be pretty exciting."

James won gold in 2008 and 2012 and a bronze in 2004 as a rookie. He skipped the 2016 Olympics but made clear at the time he wasn't retiring from international basketball, leaving

open the possibility of playing again because of his admiration for Popovich, who replaced Mike Krzyzewski after the last Olympics.

Carmelo Anthony is the only U.S. man to play in four Olympics. He was not on the list, saying after winning a third gold in 2016 that he didn't plan to play anymore. The other 11 players from the Rio roster are back, while seven players in the pool won gold in 2012 in London.

That includes Durant, who has played on the last two Olympic gold medalists, and Paul, who played in 2008 and 2012 before also opting to sit out the Rio Games.

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

# Titanium, Bears stun favored foes

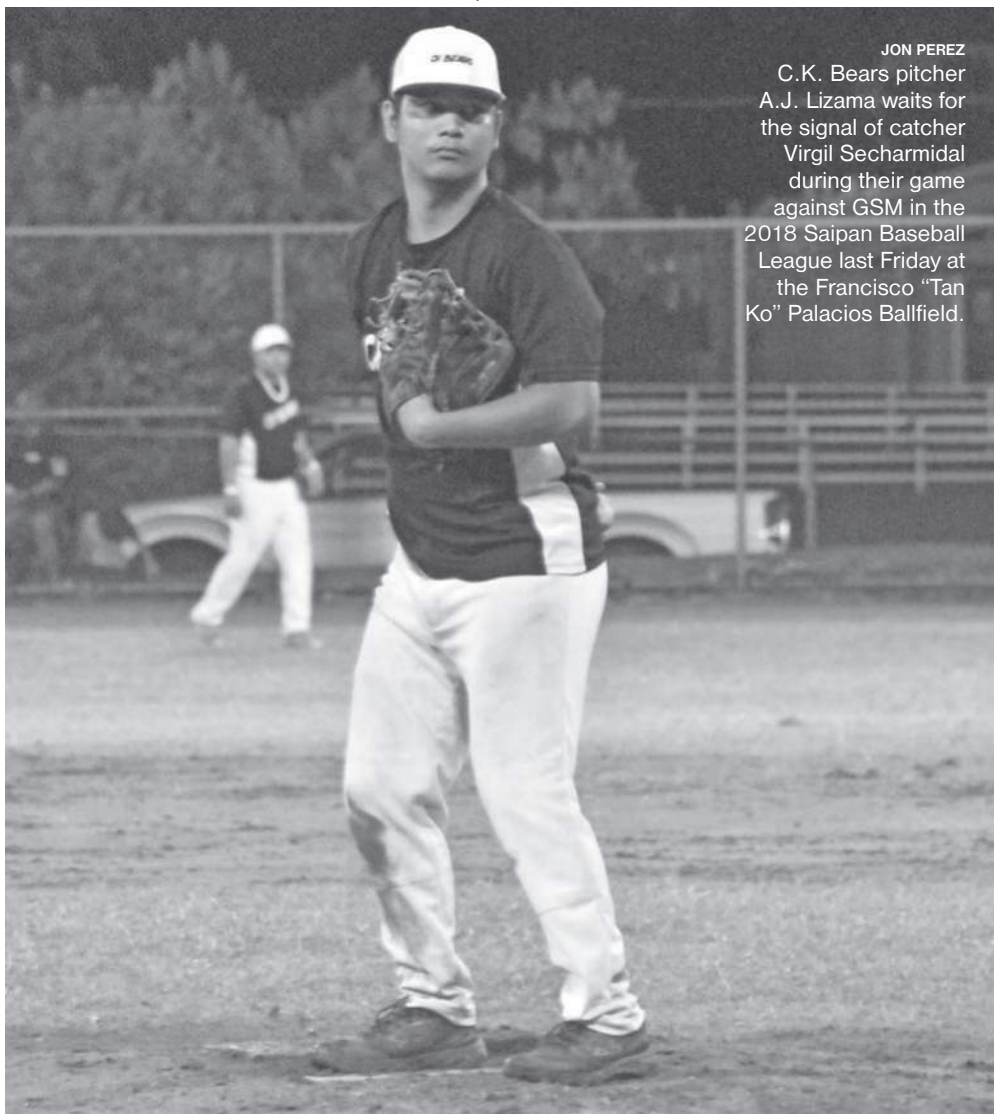
The defending champions Aces and league-leading Go See Mark were expected to win over their opponents in last week's action in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League. Their respective foes, however, had other plans.

Titanium used a six-run inning to beat the Aces, 14-11, last Thursday night, while the Chalan Kanoa Bears squeezed out a 5-4 win over GSM last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Titanium improved to a 4-3 record to join the Mariners in a tie for fifth to sixth place, while the Aces dropped to 4-2 for fourth spot, making the race for the last two playoff spots more interesting. GSM, despite the loss, remain on top with its 7-1 card, followed by the 6-1 mark of the Bears and the 5-2 of the Falcons.

Brian Camacho went 4-for-6 to lead Titanium's 19-for-39 batting. He also scored four runs with a double and three RBIs—including a two-RBI single in their team's six runs at the top of the fourth.

K.J. Villagomez scored twice on a 4-for-4 batting, while Jack Sablan, 2-for-3, had two RBIs. Joe Palacios and Austin Benavente each went 2-for-5 with the former whacking a two-RBI triple in the seventh. Palacios also had two runs, while Benavente got a double and



JON PEREZ  
C.K. Bears pitcher A.J. Lizama waits for the signal of catcher Virgil Secharmidal during their game against GSM in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

two RBIs. Jerald Cabrera only batted 1-for-2, but scored twice and had two RBIs.

Bill Camacho tossed for eight innings, allowing three

earned runs on 11 hits with seven strikeouts and two walks.

In last Friday's game, A.J. Lizama pitched five plus in-

nings in relief, giving up five hits, fanning three, and walking two. He got plenty of help from the Bears' defense at the top of the ninth to preserve the

win.

He forced Lorenzo Sebaklim to hit a line drive to first baseman Angel Palacios, while Jerome Delos Santos grounded out, and the inning ended after



Byron Kaipat had an infield fly.

Virgil Secharmidal went 3-for-4 with one run for the Bears, while Kiku Lizama batted 2-for-3 with two triples and two runs.

## PIRATES

From Page 28

pitched four innings in relief and the Chiefs used a 12-run fourth inning to clinch their fourth win in six games.

Celis went 4-for-5 with three runs, while Mallens gave up four hits while striking out eight and walking two.

## Comets 12, Falcons 2

J.P. Castro went 3-for-3, including an RBI-bunt single in the fourth, as the Comets kept their clean record after seven games. The Falcons, on the other hand, are now 3-4.

Castro also scored three times and drove in three more, while Ross Arriola went 2-for-3 with an RBI.

## MAZDA

From Page 28

in need. Triple J Saipan, Inc. is always up to help," Triple J Enterprises senior vice president Jay Jones said.

Triple J Motors is the authorized distributor of Mazda, Hyundai, Mitsubishi, U.S.-specification vehicles, Bluebird buses, Isuzu commercial trucks, and Solahart solar water heaters, as well as automotive lubricants and supplies such as Chevron Supreme motor oil. It is located on Beach Road in Chalan Lau-lau, and will gladly appraise trade-ins and can arrange bank financing. Its factory-trained, veteran service and parts staff can service all makes of vehicles. Triple J Motors Saipan is open six days a week, Monday thru Saturday. For more information, contact Triple J Motors at (670) 234-7133.

Meanwhile, besides the hole-in-one prize from Triple J Motors, the Chamber tournament will also award \$800, \$500, and \$300 to the first to third place finishers in each of the two categories to be played in this weekend's competition: team gross and team double

peoria. There will be cash prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, and accurate drive contests, too.

In addition to these prizes, golfers will enjoy complimentary swag bags full of donations from Chamber members. On-course snacks and refreshments will be provided throughout the day of play.

Showtime is at 6am with a shotgun start at 7am. The format is a two-person scramble and registration fee is \$130/per person. Chamber members will enjoy a discounted fee of \$120. A banquet and raffle will immediately follow after the tournament. Fabulous raffle prizes have been donated, and tickets will be available for purchase during the awards banquet. Registration forms are available for download at [www.saipanchamber.com](http://www.saipanchamber.com), at the Chamber office, and at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

"The Chamber is pleased to have the support of its generous members and looks forward to offering new programs to enhance the business community on Saipan in the upcoming year," the Chamber stated in a press release. (PR)

## RT NMI

From Page 28

A short 7-0 scoring run off Devin Igisomar's triple and Greg Deleon Guerrero and L.J. Reyes' layups put the Ol'Aces back into the game, 33-34, before a reverse shot from Dillan Cruz halted the rally and gave the NMI Rollers distance, 36-33, with a little over a minute remaining in the duel.

The Ol'Aces then threatened the NMI Rollers' anew, 35-36, after Deleon Guerrero hit another layup. However, the NMI Rollers' got the 2 points back quickly when Villarin drove strong to the basket, drew a foul on R-son Menchor and knocked in the two pressure-packed free throws, 38-35, 39 seconds left in the match.

After Villarin's pair of charities, the Ol'Aces sued for time and when the game resumed,

Deleon Guerrero delivered a banked shot to keep his team in the game, 37-38. However, NMI Rollers countered right away with Villarin already on their frontcourt and received a long pass from one of his teammates for an uncontested layup that gave his squad more breathing room, 40-37.

Still down by 3 with no time-out left and the clock down to 19 seconds, the Ol'Aces were pressed to make a field goal to remain in contention. They made three attempts and missed all, while the NMI Rollers finally collared and the rebound and Villarin drilled a reverse layup at the buzzer to put icing on the cake.

Villarin finished with a team-high 13 points, while Deleon Guerrero led the Ol'Aces with his 14 markers.

The victory over the Ol'Aces allowed the NMI Rollers to bounce back from a loss to

Saipan Vegas last Friday.

Saipan Vegas cruised to a 60-38 win after dominating the NMI Rollers right from the get-go.

Steve King scored 13 points in the first half to hand Saipan Vegas a double-digit lead at the break, 29-17. Donavin Deleon Guerrero also had a good start for Saipan Vegas, firing 8 points, 6 of them in streak.

Villarin tallied 7 consecutive points, too, in the first half, but was quiet in the latter part of that period. He then redeemed himself in the second half, recording 12 points, but failed to get help from his teammates, allowing Saipan Vegas to pull away further.

King was again at the forefront of the Saipan Vegas' offense early in the second half, while Anthony Lazaro delivered the killer blows, logging the squad's last 7 markers for

their 22-point winning margin.

## Friday Game

**NMI Rollers 44** — Villarin 13, Pangelinan 8, E. Castro 4, Cruz 4, Torres 4, Kapwich 4, Morila 2, G. Castro 2, Salas 2, Factor 1.

**Ol'Aces 37** — Deleon Guerrero 14, Menchor 8, Guerrero 3, Reyes 3, Igisomar 3, Saures 2, Kabiriel 2, Padayao 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 22-24, 44-37.

## Thursday Game

**Saipan Vegas 60** — King 22, Deleon Guerrero 12, Lazaro 7, Laniyo 6, Ichihara 6, Naraja 3, Mizutani 2, They 2.

**NMI Rollers 38** — Villarin 19, Cruz 4, Pangelinan 4, Tudela 2, Kapwich 2, Manglona 2, Factor 1, Morilla 1.

**Scoring by halves:** 38-29, 60-38.

## LEE

From Page 28

under par or bogey-free rounds, and most of the time if I beat them," Lee added with a laugh.

This was Lee's third straight title since winning a pair of tournaments in one month—the low gross in the Marianas International Cup and Club Lao Charity Golf Tournament in November last year.

Daryl Poe, last year's third placer, finished second behind the Dandan Middle School student Lee after ending up with a 79, while Cataluna this time settled for third with an 81.

Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho and Nick Sablan ended up with 77s in the Senior Flight, but the former ruled the division after the scorecard playoff. Attorney General Edward Manibusan was third with an 81.

Motoko Onishi (65.4), Lorraine Babauta (68.4), and Mimi Salinas (70.2) were the Top 3 finishers in the Ladies Flight, while Takahashi Tsujimura (72), Takeshi Nishiyama (74), and Saipan's Tim Goodwin (78) duplicated the feat in the A Flight.

Das Krishnan (81), Albert Pajarillaga (82), and Sung Man Cho (85) were the Top 3 winners in the B Flight, while Wei Bin Yu (86), Frank Cas-

tro (90), and Ryuji Oishi (90) made it to the podium in the C Flight. Castro defeated Oishi in the scorecard playoff.

Meanwhile, The Center for Living Independently in the CNMI, the Dandan Middle School STEM Club, Salvation Army, Saipan Paddling Club, 670 Sonics, and Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam and CNMI are the recipients of the proceeds from this year's tournament.

## KONQER

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did not prevent him from being a team player.

"When I asked permission from my colonel to form a team to compete in KONQER, he said, 'only if you win' and I did as I was told. That was all the motivation any of us needed," he said.

"I have never encountered challenges that I thought were impossible. The Marine Corps culture is likely to blame. Mission accomplishment is always the number one priority—there are no other choices. And when you have no choice, there is no limit to what you can accomplish," he added.

Since he will miss this year's KONQER Saipan, Patrick has to settle for giving advice to the participants.

"For individual competi-

tors, be well-rounded. KONQER requires strength, speed and endurance. We tell the young Marines that gorillas are strong, but they're a liability because they can't get to the fight quickly. Likewise, rabbits are fast, but they're not strong enough to compete with the enemy. You need to be a well-rounded, relentless animal great in strength and fleet of foot," he said.

"Teams should practice moving together and good communication between team members helps facilitate the flow from one event to the other with minimal time wasted. For fun and business level participants, there is no better method of creating teams and building camaraderie than team exercises. As long as all players realize that goal is to have fun and spend time with each other, you can't lose," he added.

# Back-to-back NMSA honors for jr. tennis players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



For the second straight month, the Northern Marianas Sports Association/Tan Siu Lin Foundation's student-athletes top honors went to the Commonwealth's junior tennis players.

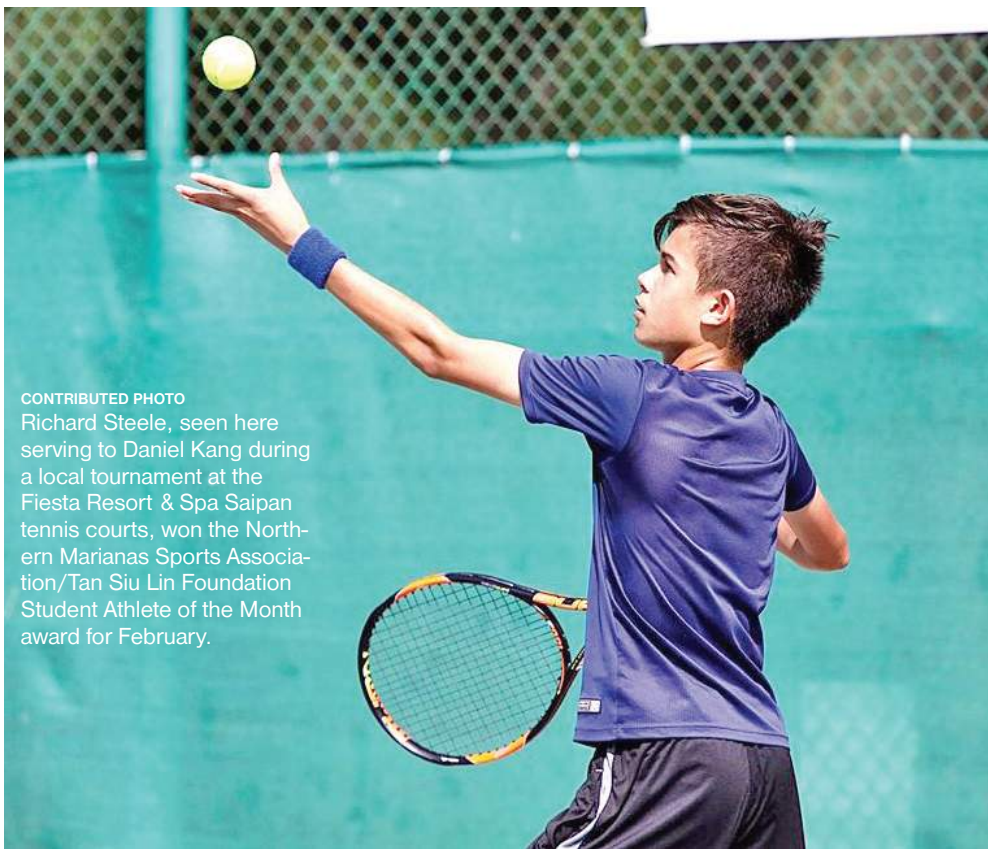
Robbie Schorr took the NMSA/TSL Foundation Student Athlete of the Month award for March for his outstanding showing in the 2018 Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Pre-Qualifying Event, joining February winners Richard Steele and Helen Kim on the elite list.

Schorr suited up for the Pacific Oceania Team that competed in the pre-qualifying event in Colombo Sri Lanka last month and helped the

squad advanced to the finals. The 15-year-old was unbeaten in the elimination round games, dominating his singles and doubles opponents from Lebanon and Bangladesh. Schorr teamed up with fellow CNMI player Ken Song and Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy and the squad was coached by Hall of Famer and 2017 NMSA Coach of the Year Jeff Race.

After sweeping pool play, Schorr and company went on to top Kuwait, 3-0, and Vietnam, 2-1, in the playoffs to move into the finals opposite eventual champion Pakistan. Despite the loss to Pakistan, Pacific Oceania made the grade in the qualifier and earned a slot to the 2018 Asia/Oceania Qualifying Finals.

The qualifying finals will be played in Kuching, Malaysia from April 9 to 14 and Schorr, Song, and Race had



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Richard Steele, seen here serving to Daniel Kang during a local tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts, won the Northern Marianas Sports Association/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Student Athlete of the Month award for February.

already left Saipan last Friday in time for the opening day of the competition. In Malaysia, the CNMI representatives and Mainguy will be up against Australia, Thailand, Japan, and Korea. Ten other countries will be participating in the qualifying finals with the Top 4 teams advancing to the 2018 World Junior Davis Cup.

Meanwhile, Steele and Kim earned the February honors after ruling their respective competitions in the 2018 Coconut Tennis Classic.

The No. 1 seed Steele lived up to his lofty billing after downing Daniel Kang in the boys U14 singles finals, 6-3, 6-1. Steele did not drop a single set in his event en route to clinching the division crown.

Kim, on the other hand, survived a tough finals showdown against Ye Jin Son, 3-6, 6-2, 10-8, to bag the girls U12 singles championship.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maj. Timothy Patrick takes on one of the obstacle courses in last year's KONQER Saipan at the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park.

## KONQER Saipan winner expects bigger turnout

BY BEA CABRERA  
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CORRESPONDENT

Inaugural KONQER Saipan champion Maj. Timothy Patrick won't be able to defend his title in this year's obstacle course race, but despite his absence he expects a bigger turnout for the April 28 event.

"Unfortunately, I won't be able to defend my title as I will likely be out of the area on Marine Corps business, otherwise, I would love the opportunity to visit Saipan again during the race. Among other things, I expect an even bigger turnout this season as I see lots of returning competitors as well as new competi-

tors as the word about KONQER in the Marianas grows," Patrick said.

The 45-year-old ruled last year's 2.16-kilometer course, completing the 12 obstacles, including the 32-meter incline wall, in 37:08.

"I do expect the race will continue to grow because Kaz Endo and Kelly Weld (race coordinators) accomplished the nearly impossible task of successfully integrating recreation and real competition into one event. This is not something I have encountered in any other competition venues because if you're in a competitive sport, you're out for blood. If you're engaged

in an event just for completion, you're left wondering how you would have placed and KONQER gives you the best of both worlds," Patrick added.

Patrick reminisced on last year's KONQER Saipan, describing it as both unique and amazing.

"KONQER is unique because it requires endurance and stamina for the first part of the race and agility and strength for the second part. Physically, the best way to train for full-spectrum races is full-spectrum workouts which include speed-work, strength training, good cardio, such as wind sprints. Playing

with my kids accomplishes all these things," he said.



"Saipan KONQER races were amazing as I expected the normal pre-race jitters and the typical biochemical reactions that accompany these competitions. But KONQER was different as the natural beauty of Palau, Saipan, and Guam washed all that away. All I kept thinking on each race was 'I can't believe I'm here' this must be the most beautiful place on Earth," he added.

Although Patrick competed in the individual event, that

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## Mazda MX-5 Miata up for grabs at Chamber golf tourney

The 2018 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament is sure to be the best one yet with Triple J Motors offering a brand new car as a hole-in-one prize for the April 14 event that will take place at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

"Triple J Motors is gladly putting up for grabs to the first golfer to hit a hole-in-one at our designated Hole No. 3, the latest version of the Mazda MX-5 Miata convertible roadster, which we proudly offer for sale now. This is the 4th generation of MX-5, and it was unveiled in the U.S. in 2014. This vehicle has a proud history of global awards and recognitions. In 2000, the MX-5 was recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's best-selling convertible two-seater sports car. The current genera-



tion of MX-5 was named the World Car of the Year at the 2016 World Car Awards in the U.K., as well as Cars.com's 'Play Car of the Year' in 2017. The MX-5 was also a finalist for 2016's North American Car of the Year award. The total value is \$33,995," Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele said.

"The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has made great efforts in playing an active and supportive role within our island community from educational and environmental workshops to events and support for our armed forces and small businesses. We share the same values of grooming our youth to lead us into a future of successes, and ensuring support is provided to those

**See MAZDA on Page 26**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Jill M. Arenovski, Triple J Motors sales associate Justine Marie Chan, Saipan Chamber of Commerce coordinator Christine S. Tadeo, and Triple J Motors sales associates Shae Stovell and Manning Salas pose with the Mazda MX-5 Miata convertible roadster—the hole-in-one prize in this Saturday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament.



Red Sox beat Rays for 7th straight victory

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Thunder end Rockets' 20-game home win streak

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Lee defends Hyatt golf title

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Edward Lee doesn't mind playing with guys older than him, as he has gotten used to the occasional friendly banter every time he beats them in regular tournaments on the island.



The 14-year-old CNMI junior golfer once again prevailed against his veteran opponents as he was at his best form to rule the Hyatt Regency Saipan's 22nd Annual Charity Golf Classic held last Saturday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Lee finished the one-day tournament with a 77 to lead the list of winners in the fundraising tournament and successfully defend the title he



JON PEREZ

Hyatt Regency Saipan's 22nd Annual Charity Golf Classic Championship Flight winner Edward Lee, second left, joins runner-up Daryl Poe, left, third placer Freddie Cataluna, third left, and Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, right, for a group photo during last Saturday's awards banquet at the hotel's pool side.

won last year when he beat Freddie Cataluna.

"They always make fun of me, just friendly jokes," Lee told *Saipan Tribune* moments

after receiving his second straight White Bathrobe, the tournament's own version of the Green Jacket given to the winner of the Masters at Au-

gusta National.

"They always tease me if I make a difficult shot, have

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By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

## Pirates outclass Cubs



JON PEREZ

The Bridge Capital Pirates' Deandre Cruz waits for the pitch from the Cubs during their game in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Joey Dela Cruz and J.R. Suel turned in impressive performances to lead the Bridge Capital Pirates in beating the still luckless Cubs, 8-2, in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

Dela Cruz, who struck out in the first inning, went 3-for-4 with two doubles to go with his RBI and one run and helped the Pirates even their record to 3-3. The Pirates, more importantly, stayed close behind undefeated teams Talaabwogh Falcons (6-0) and Kagman Little (5-0), and the Natibu Sports Association Braves (5-1).

Suel, meanwhile, was solid on the mound where he pitched a complete game. Both of the Cubs' runs were earned. Suel, despite giving up two earned runs, limited the Cubs to five hits while striking out eight and walking three. Albert

Adriano and Badung Lizama, who both had singles, scored the runs in the sixth inning for the Cubs, who dropped their fifth straight game.

Meanwhile, the Comets won by default against the Twins in the other Majors division game to hike their record to 2-4, while their opponents are now 0-5.

### MINOR DIVISION Cubs 5, Comets 3

Joseph Lizama and Robert Manglona had a triple each in the second and third innings to lift the Cubs past the Comets.

Paul Lizama pitched a one-hit game with six strikeouts and one walk in two plus innings on the mound.

### JUNIORS DIVISION Chiefs 17, Braves 9

Patrick Celis drove in two runs, while Shane Mallens

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## RT NMI Rollers withstands Ol'Aces' rally

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Irvin Villarin made 6 of the NMI Rollers' last 8 points to save the day for his team, which led 34-26, with over five minutes left in the match.



The RT Law NMI Rollers survived the Bruce Almighty Ol'Aces comeback bid for 44-37 victory in their boys U15 division game in the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The RT Law NMI Rollers' Irvin Villarin, 33, reaches in for the ball in this rebound play during their boys U15 division game against the Bruce Almighty Ol'Aces in the Diaz youth caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.